INSIDE: CENTRAL PA PRIDE FESTIVAL GUIDE • JULY 25 to JULY 27

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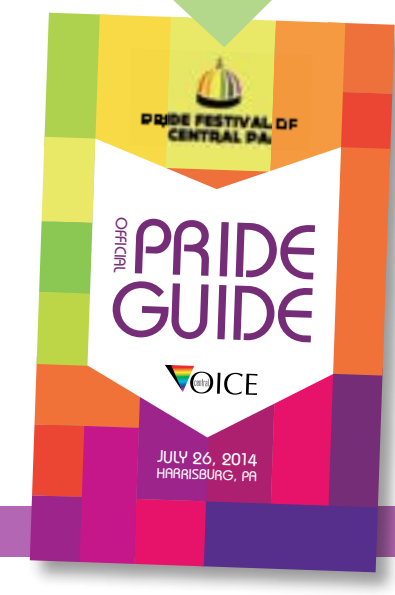
JULY/AUGUST 2014



Marriage Milestone

About 100 people rallied on the steps of the State Capital Building May 20 to celebrate a federal judge overturning Pennsylvania's 1996 Defense of Marriage Act that banned same-sex marriage. Federal Middle District Judge John E. Jones III ruled that Pennsylvania's gay marriage ban is unconstitutional. Julie Lobur and Marla Cattermole *(pictured bottom left)* were among 23 people challenging Pennsylvania's anti-same-sex marriage law in court. Lobur's partner of 28 years, Cattermole told *Central Voice* last September, "..we'd like our relationship legally recognized." They are legally married in the state of Iowa." With today's decision, their marriage is now recognized.

More photos on page 10

Bringing History Out of the Closet

By Barry A. Loveland

Joe Burns looks over hundreds of documents laid out in piles on the large dining room table in his sister's central Pennsylvania home. He is carefully examining, organizing, cataloguing and recording them in a timeline highlighting some of the key historical developments in the early lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) civil rights movement in small cities throughout Pennsylvania.

Burns is just one of many LGBT individuals in the Keystone State whose stories are being discovered, inventoried, preserved and presented by the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgendered Center of Central Pennsylvania History Project, headquartered in midtown Harrisburg. The project began in August 2012 and has recorded video oral history interviews with more than 25 individuals, while more than 80 remain on a waiting list. It's a number keeps growing.

> ...the documentation of LGBT history is not easily found and the subject matter has been largely ignored...

"This is really an important letter," Burns says as he holds out a piece of paper. It is a letter he received in 1969 from New York's Mattachine Society, founded in

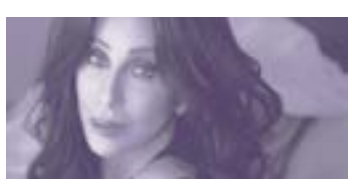
Continued on page 14

A contingent from the Pennsylvania Rural Gay Caucus poses with their hand-made banner at the Philadelphia gay pride parade ca. 1976. (Photo by Bari Weaver, from the LGBT History Project collection of the Dickinson College Archives and Special Collections)

Hbg. Mayor Presides Over Gay Wedding pg 10

York to Host 1st Equality Fest pg 22

CV Wants to Share Cher With You! pg 18



Stand Up for Equality

By Central Voice

A cross-section of religious and business leaders, elected officials and advocates - 34 in all - gathered in state capital June 16 to urge passage of Senate and House Bills 300. The twin measures will update the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act to include LGBT individuals in housing and in public accommodations protections.

Called the Campaign to End Discrimination, House Bill 300 has the bi-partisan support of 96 House members, including 14 Republicans. Senate Bill 300 has 25 bi-partisan co-sponsors, the highest number yet for a set of bills introduced in the last five, 2-year sessions of the state's General Assembly.

> "This place needs to get it together."
> - Sen. Larry Farnese

"This is embarrassing, sad, and annoying," said Sen. Larry Farnese. "This place needs to get it together." Press conference placards pointed out that only 32% of Pennsylvanians are currently protected by local LGBT non-discrimination ordinances. That leaves 68% who could be fired for being gay.

Local speakers included: Patty Busik, Harrisburg Regional Chamber of Commerce; Hava Pell, uFinancial Group; Rabbi Carl Choper, The Interfaith Alliance of PA; Jeanine Rusham, TransCentral PA.and Ted Martin, Equality PA.

D2K TOUR 2014

"After a spectacular show, this better not be her farewell tour."
–THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

"Dazzling, CHER delivers classic hits and outrageous costumes at D2K"
–BILLBOARD

"A stunning vocal showcase", "An eye-popping extravaganza"
–HOUSTON CHRONICLE

"CHER triumphs... D2K tour is bigger, stronger, shinier than Farewell"
–ARIZONA REPUBLIC

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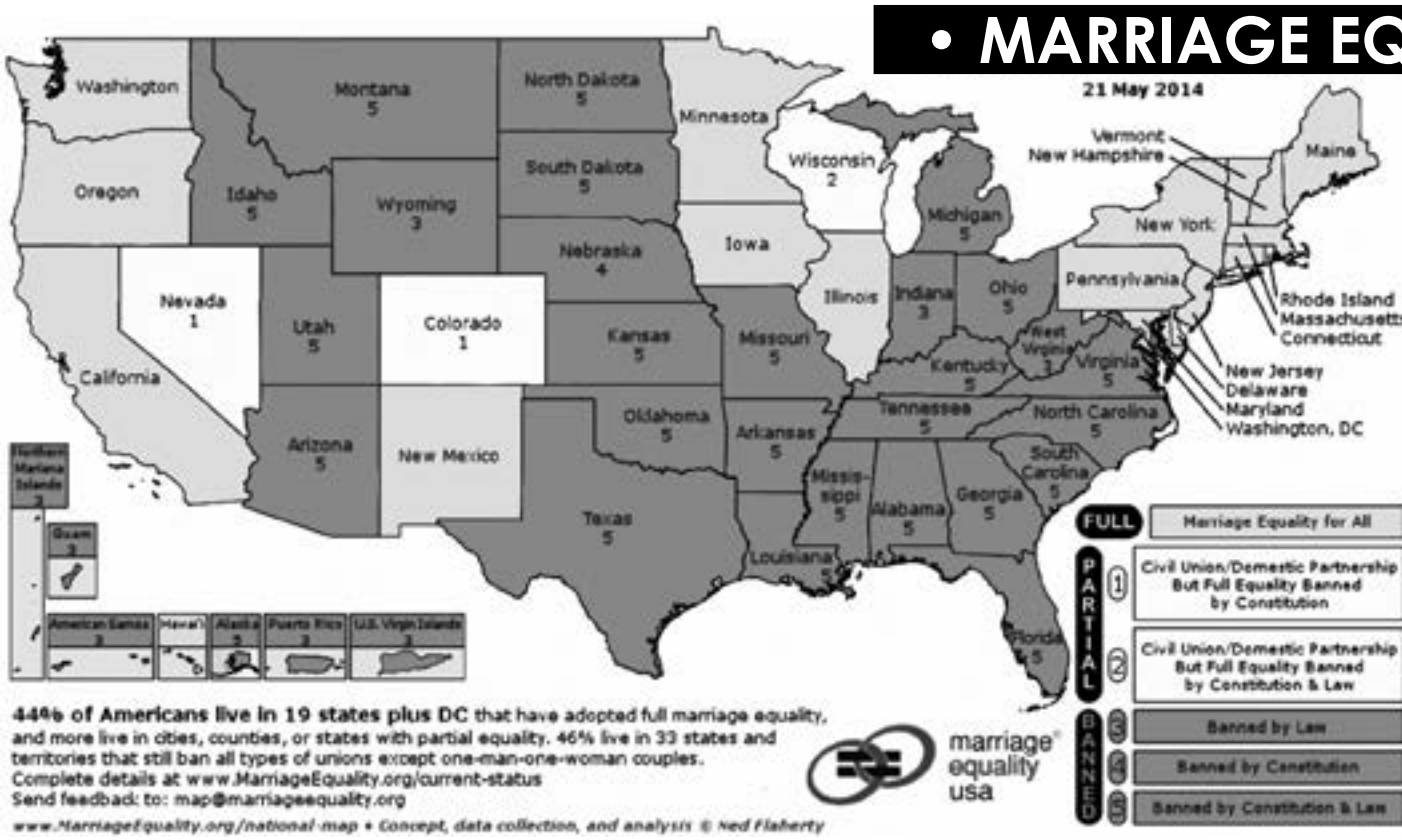
Political Update

• MARRIAGE EQUALITY MAP •



44% of Americans live in 19 states plus DC that have adopted full marriage equality, and more live in cities, counties or states with partial equality. 46% live in 33 states and territories that still ban all types of unions except one-man-one-woman couples.

Complete details can be found at marriageequality.org/current-status.

• PA Gay Republican Fleck to Run as Democrat

Fleck

Fleck Republican State Rep. Mike Fleck, the state's first openly gay legislator, will appear on the November's general election ballot as a Democratic after losing the primary to his challenger, Huntingdon County treasurer Richard Irvin. Irvin started out on the Republican primary ballot but was removed over a filing error. Instead, he ran a successful write-in campaign against Fleck, who ran as both a Republican and Democratic candidate winning 901-886.

• Log Cabin Republicans Split with Texas GOP

Following the denial to formally participate in this year's Texas State Republican Convention, Log Cabin Republicans announced they will Metroplex Republicans , denouncing the Texas GOP's stance against the organization. "Overall, Log Cabin Republicans of Texas has found incredible support within the Republican party -- Texans, like the rest of the country, are evolving on LGBT rights issues," said LCR/Texas chairman Jeffrey Davis. This development takes place 16 years after LCR was similarly denied participation at the Texas State GOP's Convention, an exclusion that was chronicled at the time in the mini-documentary "On the Front Lines," which can be viewed on youtube.

• LGBT Rep. Group GOProud to Shut Down

Bilerico writer Andrew Markle reports that LGBT Republican group GOProud is shutting down for good. In 2004, GOProud was born when Jimmy LaSalvia and Chris Barron split from the Log Cabin Republicans. Both have stepped down from the organization. GOProud has been mired by several controversies since the departure of their founders. The group has bled donors since the widely reported departure of Jimmy LaSalvia from the Republican Party earlier this year. His departure was so loud, but it focused primarily on his shift of ideology and thus projected a new image onto the organization that he helped found.

Finding it difficult to continue without securing more funding, GOProud will be shutting down immediately - an homage to an era gone by. The shuttering is undoubtedly necessary as the organization's full effectiveness has been tarnished. The organization may rebrand and regroup later, but for now, the organization will no longer be functioning. Co-director Matthew Bechstein stated in an interview that the "brand is broken" and a rebrand is necessary.

• Schuylkill County Official To Appeal

Martin

After losing her initial appeal June 18 before the judge who May 20 overturned Pennsylvania's law banning same-sex marriage, Schuylkill County Register of Wills Theresa Santai-Gaffney is taking her case to block gay marriages in PA to a federal appeals court.

Santai-Gaffney made her announcement immediately after U.S. District Judge John E. Jones III denied the county row officer's request to intervene and appeal his ruling. Specifically, she wanted Jones to halt same-sex marriages in the state until the U.S. Supreme Court had a chance to weight in the issue. Her case is expected to reach the nation's highest court.

Gov. Tom Corbett's administration was defending the law, but declined to appeal Jones' May 20 decision to strike down the 1996 law.

Equality PA's Ted Martin said in a statement when the appeal was filed, "We have branches of government for a reason, and the judicial branch has a legitimate right to interpret whether laws meet the constitutional standards that our nation's founders created. We are glad that Judge Jones examined the case and came to a reasonable conclusion. We also thank Gov. Corbett for recognizing that the majority of Pennsylvanian's understand that love is love."

Pennsylvania was the last northeastern state to bar gay marriage. Same-sex marriage is now legal in the state.

• Houston Passes Trans-inclusive Ordinance

Houston's City Council passed a non-discrimination ordinance that will protect city contracting, housing, public accommodations and private employees on the basis of gender identity and sexual orientation in a vote of 11 to 6. The Houston Equal Rights Ordinance (HERO) had received strong support from local advocates who spoke out a live-streamed meeting of city council members. Many anti-LGBT activists spoke as well, reiterating widely-discredited myths particularly about the use of bathrooms by transgender residents.

• Church's Lawsuit Fights Anti-gay Marriage Ban

North Carolina clergy and national officers of the United Church of Christ have filed suit against North Carolina and its anti-LGBT constitutional amendment, citing First Amendment guarantees of freedom of religion. UCC Pastor Nancy Ellett Allison said North Carolina's laws discriminating against same-sex couples violate her church's and congregants' religious freedoms. "North Carolina's laws prohibiting same-gender marriage designate some citizens as unfit for the blessings of God," Allison said. "We reject that notion. As all of God's children are welcome to receive the sacraments of communion and of baptism, so all of God's children should be able to receive the sacrament of holy union and marriage." Of all marriage cases nationwide — now 66 separate lawsuits — the church and its legal team believe their lawsuit is the first to cite the First Amendment and a religious freedom argument in fighting an anti-LGBT amendment on marriage.

• Oregon 18th State to Allow Gay Marriage

Dozens of same-sex couples were officially married after a federal judge ruled that Oregon's voter-approved ban on same-sex marriage was unconstitutional.

U.S. District Judge Michael McShane said the ban discriminates against gay couples and ordered Oregon not to enforce it. Oregon officials earlier refused to defend the ban in court.

Jubilant couples began applying for marriage licenses

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Learn History, Gain Humility

Frank Pizzoli

In today's "selfie" world, humility is not a staple of social interaction. For many individuals, history is what happens after the miraculous moment of their birth.

The same can be said for LGBT history. Many individuals think gay history begins the moment they enter the fray. Nothing of consequence happened before their involvement.

As we enjoy a summer of Pride Celebrations in the region - this year Lancaster, Harrisburg, and York - we witness the region's burgeoning urge to explore and document our collective history. Emphasis is on "collective".

***Why*?**

As you read our history stories, Page 1 is local, Page 16 is a national story we covered, you see that no individual or group can legitimately claim LGBT history. Although it has been tried and failed in the end. Like there are many closets from which our movement burst forth, there are as many stories. Each one necessary to cobble together a coherent, and honest, LGBT history.

Write your history.

Like Horace Greeley advised us to "Go West" when the nation was young, let us collectively advise each other to "write down" our personal histories. Never underestimate what you have contributed to our history by simply being you.

Never pathologize yourself.

True, the many hardships most of us encounter growing up as "Other" and all that goes along with being different means that by some social measures we experience higher rates of disenfranchisement.

We have less access to health care services that understand us. We may drink and smoke more than our counterparts.

I do not find these negative statistics unusual given our history. What I do think is unusual is that, given our individual and movement growing pains, that the negative stats aren't higher. I do believe the negative stats aren't higher because we are a resilient people. No question there.

And that brings me to my point.

Let's be sure to include in our collective history that at least one of the reasons we are, and remain, a resilient people, is because we come together for each other. For the good of the order. And for no other reason than because it's the right thing to do.

With that in mind, may I, humbly, suggest a 2014 LGBT Pride Pledge: *I will come together with others to do the right thing once between now and our next Pride Celebration.*

Pension Reform: Learning from Others

Submitted by The Commonwealth Foundation

Pennsylvania is not the first state to be in economic trouble due to, among other things, an unsustainable pension mandate. So it only makes sense to learn from those who have gone before us and found success.

In a report released by the Commonwealth Foundation, Scott Beaulier, PhD, Chair of Economics and Finance and director of the Manuel H. Johnson Center for Political Economy at Troy University, recommends Pennsylvania implement a 401(k)-style plan for new public employees similar to a measure passed by Oklahoma's legislature just last week.

Proven success

Moving new public employees to a defined contribution plan, similar to a 401(k), and making adjustments to compensation formulas for current employees would save Pennsylvania $52 billion over the next 30 years.

Private sector businesses have been moving in this direction over the past 30 years. State and local governments have begun to follow suit because of the proven benefits:

Portability - Defined contribution funds can be carried with the worker as he or she changes jobs.

Fully funded - All of the funds promised to an employee are paid up front and become the employee's property. There is no risk to firms or public sector entities of ever carrying a funding liability.

Potentially higher returns - A growing body of evidence suggests that returns from a lifetime of defined contribution retirement accounts produce higher returns than individuals cashing out on defined benefit programs.

More predictable costs - Defined contribution plans make the employer responsible for a specified dollar amount each year, not a defined payout whose funding is dependent on unpredictable stock market returns or other economic conditions. Such predictability protects taxpayers and public sector workers from underfunding due to political manipulation.

Beaulier concludes "The strongest case for shifting state pensions to defined contribution plans is a financial one: There is no way a state like Pennsylvania will be able to put an end to its rising pension liabilities unless it learns from thousands of private sector firms and closes its current defined benefit programs. Once the program is closed, the state should shift all new employees and any current employees that want to convert to defined contribution plans. Such a shift is consistent with best practices in the private sector, and it is the only way to protect taxpayers while granting workers control over their own retirements."

Reform inevitable

Pennsylvania is among the worst states in the country when it comes to unfunded pension liabilities. The two separate state pension systems, the State Employees' Retirement System (SERS) and the Public School Employees' System (PSERS), have official unfunded liabilities totaling more than $50 billion dollars. Currently, they are less than 60 percent funded.

Beaulier says "Pennsylvania's funding ratios make pension reform inevitable. By 2019, pension costs will consume 9.8 cents of every state General Fund dollar (vs. 4.2 cents in 2013), crowding out essential government services such as public education, public safety, and transportation."

Pension Crisis: Doing Nothing is Not an Option

By Tom Corbett

Pennsylvania law might guarantee state employees a set pension when they retire, but mathematics has its own laws.

All the legal protections in the world mean nothing if a pension plan is insolvent. Retirees in Detroit just found this out. If our commonwealth is to avoid this hard lesson, we need to act with a political resolve that has been lacking too long.

Every dollar saved through pension reform is another dollar for our children's educations, or another dollar to help get someone off the waiting list for services they need, or another dollar to keep our citizens safe.

The facts are simple:

For nearly a decade beginning in 2001, the state significantly expanded pension benefits without covering the costs of this expansion, and then compounded the error by failing to pay what it should have into its two pension funds – the State Employees' Retirement System and the Public School Employees' Retirement System – underfunding the systems by more than $5.9 billion.

The Great Recession of 2008 brought the political games with pensions to an abrupt halt. Global financial chaos in past decade, coupled with the near collapse of the mortgage industry, set off a chain of events that produced close to zero gain for investments of all types – including pension funds, which rely heavily on investment income.

Pennsylvania, like many other states, had counted on a 7.5 percent return on investment. It never arrived. Instead, the burden went on the taxpayers to make up the difference and the pension hole deepened.

Right now, SERS and PSERS are a combined $50 billion short of what they need to cover current and future retirees, and the figure is climbing. By 2018, the unfunded liability for pensions will pass $65 billion. Every household in this state will owe $13,000 to cover that debt.

The financial world has noticed.

In the past year Moody's and Fitch, two of the major investment ratings firms, lowered the state's rating. The lower your credit rating, the higher the interest you pay on what you borrow.

So what happens next?

If we do nothing the short answer is, "pay more, get less."

> If we do nothing the short answer is, "pay more, get less."

In the case of PSERS, roughly half the pension cost is borne by school districts, meaning skyrocketing property taxes.

As more of the state budget goes to covering pension debt, money is crowded out for everything from classrooms to public safety. Potential job creators will take one look at this tax burden and turn away.

Pension debt could drag Pennsylvania into an economic death spiral.

We need to do two things:

First, we need to face economic reality.

We must address our spiraling pension costs at both the state level and in every school district across the commonwealth. This will mean hard choices, including how the state will pay for another $600 million in state funding to our current obligations to our employees and retirees. Doing nothing is no longer an option. It will only make the bad worse.

Second, we need to rethink how we do pensions in the years ahead.

The traditional pension structure must be replaced with 401(k) style defined contribution plans. We can no longer have the taxpayer foot the bill when investments don't live up to expectations. Nor should we rely upon old return assumptions in hope that we can grow our way out of the problem. We also need to recognize that people are living longer, which means added cost to taxpayers under the current pension systems.

State Rep. Mike Tobash has introduced a plan that would combine the traditional benefits of a guaranteed retirement for employees with a contribution plan that would limit taxpayer liability if the pension's investments underperform.

Risk to the taxpayer would be capped at $50,000 of a public employee's or school teacher's salary. Any retirement contribution for salary above $50,000 would go into an account that will be self-directed and fully portable.

The Tobash plan only affects new employees. It also ensures that existing benefits already being paid out to retirees will not be touched. They earned it and they will receive it

But the key to the Tobash plan is that it saves taxpayers, $11 billion over the cost of the current pension system.

Uncontrolled debt and pension cost threaten to undo the progress our state has made. The fundamental problem is not going to go away and the only question is whether we deal with pension debt now or whether it deals us a fiscal hammer blow later.

I am urging the General Assembly to help our state and local school districts by passing pension reform by the end of this session. I ask each of you to call your local legislator and do the same.

With your help, we can pass pension reform now.

Tom Corbett is Governor of Pennsylvania

voice box

GREAT NEWSPAPER

Central Voice is a great newspaper, especially the Hobby Lobby story!

Susan

INFORMATIVE

I would like to commend you on the excellent job you are doing with the *Central Voice*. Each issue I look forward to a jammed packed publication with informative articles on subjects I would otherwise not know about.

S Krebs

E-mail your thoughts to Central VOICE posops@aol.com

immediately after McShane issued his ruling, and many were married hours later. In Portland, Multnomah County issued more than 70 licenses, according to the gay-rights group Oregon United for Marriage. "I believe that if we can look for a moment past gender and sexuality, we can see in these plaintiffs nothing more or less than our own families," McShane wrote. "Families who we would expect our constitution to protect, if not exalt, in equal measure."

• Slovakia Bans Same-Sex Marriage

The parliament of Slovakia adopted a constitutional amendment prohibiting legal recognition of same-sex couples. Slovakia is the third European Union member state to ban same-sex couples from marrying since 2012, reports BuzzFeed's J. Lester Feder. An explanatory memo that accompanied the bill stated it was also designed to make it "impossible for the rights and duties associated with marriage to be conferred in any way other than a legally recognized union between a man and a woman." The law was passed overwhelmingly, with the votes of 102 of the 128 members of parliament.

• Medicare to Fund Sex Reassignment Surgery

The Obama administration struck a major blow for transgender rights by ending a decades-long blanket ban that prevented Medicare from covering sex reassignment surgery. The Department of Health and Human Services issued a ruling that ended a ban on Medicare even considering covering sex reassignment surgery and related care because a fear of "serious complications" resulting from the "experimental" surgery. That language was issued in 1981, and most medical professional organizations now consider sex reassignment surgery a safe and accepted procedure. The ruling noted the change in how sex reassignment surgery is understood 33 years after the Medicare ban was issued.

Experts say the change to Medicare could have far-reaching implications for American medicine, helping to drive more private insurers to offer coverage for sex reassignment surgery and related care. The White House did not trumpet the move, and advocates for the change issued a joint statement hailing it but downplaying it as a revolutionary change for transgender people, instead casting it as bringing Medicare up to speed with the rest of the medical profession.

• TWO Launches Center against Extremism

Truth Wins Out has launched its new Center Against Religious Extremism (TWOCARE.org), which aims to hold America's Religious Right accountable for promoting theocracy at home and shipping its dangerous brand of hate abroad. TWOCARE is made possible with a $100,000 matching grant from philanthropist Henry van Ameringen.

"If you're like me, you are tired of American extremists literally getting away with murder from Uganda to Russia," said Truth Wins Out executive director Wayne Besen. "The Center Against Religious Extremism is designed to monitor, counter, and ultimately serve as a bulwark against an ignoble enterprise designed to drag the world back into the Dark Ages."

The center's initial report by TWOCARE researcher Bruce Wilson, focuses on "The Gathering," an annual event where the Religious Right's philanthropic community doles out upwards of one billion dollars in grants. "Money distributed at The Gathering drives the culture wars, deepens America's political divide, and bankrolls the export of hate aboard," said Bruce Wilson, Director of TWO's Center Against Religious Extremism.

"This is why it is critically important that everyone know about The Gathering."

• Sponsor of Perú Civil Unions Comes Out

Washington Blade's Michael Lavers reports that the primary sponsor of a bill that would allow same-sex couples to enter into civil unions in Perú has come out as gay. "Yes, I am gay and I am proud to belong to this group of people who are so valuable to Perú," said Congressman Carlos Bruce.

Bruce — a member of the centrist Possible Perú Alliance who represents Lima, the Peruvian capital — told the newspaper his two sons support his decision to come out. The congressman also reiterated his criticisms of Lima Archbishop Juan Luís Cipriani who opposes the civil unions bill. Bruce joins a handful of other openly LGBT politicians in Latin America who are either in their countries' national legislatures or have been members of them.

• Bill Calls for Social Security Benefits

Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) has introduced the Social Security & Marriage Equality Act of 2014. The bill would require the Social Security Administration to grant survivor and retirement benefits to married gay couples even if these couples live in a non-marriage equality state. "Unfortunately, when it came to federal survivor benefits, these marriages are currently classified as valid only if the couple lives in a state where same-sex marriage is recognized," Murray said Thursday in a conference call with reporters.

• Arkansas Marriage Ban Struck Down

An Arkansas circuit judge recently struck down the state's laws banning same-sex marriage, citing the federal lawsuit that eliminated bans on interracial marriage throughout the country. In a 13-page decision, Judge Chris Piazza ruled that Arkansas laws barring same-sex couples from marriage violate the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

Piazza recalls U.S. Supreme Court decision in Loving v. Virginia striking down bans on interracial marriage throughout the country happened more than 40 years ago, predicting the same thing will happen with bans on same-sex marriage. "It has been over forty years since Mildred Loving was given the right to marry the person of her choice," Piazza writes. "The hatred and fears have long since vanished and she and her husband lived full lives together; so it will be for the same-sex couples. It is time to let that beacon of freedom shine brighter on all our brothers and sisters. We will be stronger for it."

• Federal Judge Rules Idaho Ban Unconstitutional

U.S. Magistrate Judge Candy W. Dale ruled that Idaho's discriminatory state constitutional amendment denying same-sex couples the freedom to marry in Idaho and respect for legal marriages between same-sex couples violates the U.S. Constitution. Judge Dale is the latest of more than a dozen federal and state judges to rule in favor of the freedom to marry in recent months. A record-high 59% of Americans support marriage for same-sex couples, with majority support now in every region of the country.

Utah Supreme Court Stops Adoptions

Chris Geidner, BuzzFeed Legal Editor, reports that the Utah Supreme Court has stopped the recognition of adoptions by same-sex parents in several cases while it considers arguments on whether adoptions can be granted and birth certificates can be issued to same-sex parents at the current time. The order came following several cases where judges granted adoptions to married same-sex couples and, in some cases, ordered that birth certificates be issued or amended to reflect those adoptions.

The Utah Department of Health asked the state's Supreme Court to stop those adoptions and the issuance of those birth certificates because, the state argues, same-sex couples' marriages cannot be recognized under the state's marriage amendment. The state argues that the amendment, though struck down in December 2013, was put back into effect in January when the U.S. Supreme Court issued a stay of the December ruling during the state's appeal of that case. "The stay prevents further confusion as the district court order required the Department to list same-sex parents as the legal parents of an adoptive child. The Department sought clarification because the court orders appear to conflict with Utah law currently in effect, which prohibits the state and any state entities from recognizing same-sex marriages," according to a statement from Utah Attorney General Sean Reyes's office.

• North Dakota 31st State to Sue

Wolfson

Seven committed same-sex couples are suing the state of North Dakota in federal court for the freedom to marry. Lawsuits are now filed in every state without the freedom for same-sex couples to marry. With the addition of North Dakota, every U.S. state without the freedom to marry has at least one active marriage lawsuit.

Evan Wolfson, president of Freedom to Marry, released the following statement:

"With today's addition of North Dakota, courts in every state are considering a freedom to marry case - 70-plus cases in total. With 50% of Americans believing the freedom to marry is a constitutional right, and a strong majority supporting marriage for gay couples, it's time the Supreme Court bring resolution nationwide. The time is now to get on the right side of history." Currently, 44% of Americans live in 19 states and the District of Columbia where gay couples share in the freedom to marry.

community voice

Proposal Curbing Carbon Pollution

Submitted by Sierra Club

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has issued a proposal for the first-ever national protections from dangerous carbon pollution from existing power plants. Carbon pollution causes climate disruption and is already costing American communities billions of dollars from flooding, super-storms, wildfires, and extreme heat.

This new standard, which is part of the President's Climate Action Plan, will clean up the industries that create the lion's share of carbon pollution in our country. The new protections will also help reduce other life-threatening air pollutants including smog, soot and mercury, which pose serious health threats across Pennsylvania.

In response, Joanne Kilgour, Pennsylvania Sierra Club Chapter Director, issued the following statement: "We applaud President Obama and the EPA for their move to clean up our air, improve the health of our children, and curb the worst effects of climate disruption. These life-saving protections could not come at a more critical time. Climate disruption and extreme weather are worsening life-threatening air pollution in Pennsylvania and putting our families at risk from stronger storms, extreme temperatures, flooding and droughts.

"The new safeguards not only protect our health and communities, but they will spur innovation and strengthen our economy. By moving to 100 percent clean energy sources, we'll create tens of thousands of American jobs and billions of dollars in new investment. Cutting pollution that harms our communities will save us billions of dollars in health costs, infrastructure repair, and disaster recovery costs.

"We now look forward to working with Governor Corbett to create a strong state implementation plan that will protect Pennsylvania's families from harmful air pollution. We urge Governor Corbett to stand up for clean air and healthy children."

thinking out loud

By Abby Dees

Letter to Me, *Age 14*

Dear Abby,

As another year wraps up, I realize that I've owed you a letter for way too long.

I know that you feel hopelessly awkward and out of sync with people, but you haven't been around long enough yet to know how well you're actually doing. You know how people keep saying, "Be yourself"? And how they don't seem to give a damn when you do just that? Maybe they're hypocrites, but try not to take it personally (in time you'll see that we all have hypocritical moments). The deal is, they're right. But they don't understand – or tell you – how difficult a task being yourself actually is.

I can assure you, though, that only way to get through what seems like an endless wait to grow up is to believe that you are indeed fabulous. Don't be a self-centered jerk, but rather, someone who appreciates her gifts and doesn't care about anyone else's vision of perfection. It's the only way to get where you want to go. Yeah, it's hard. So what. You have to do it. You will do it.

Along those lines, I cannot emphasize enough how much you should ignore the family's nattering on about your weight. You'll learn later on just how bonkers they are and how lovely you are. Instead of pinning all life's hopes on being twenty pounds lighter, how about giving occasional props to your classically shaped, normal body. Spend that energy getting better at guitar. Or reading. Or picking your toes. Much better use of your energy than starving. You won't be a rock star, I hate to tell you, but if you'll also stop believing that you're too fat to front a band, or make friends, or put yourself out there in front of people, you will never regret taking those risks. Live now. Don't wait.

And please give up trying to tan. You don't want to have to scan yourself for melanomas forever more. Accept that you have no melanin. Anyway, people will compliment your fair skin when it becomes fashionable in a few years.

You will be loved and appreciated in your life for who you are – which is exactly the same person you are now, only with a lot more confidence, as well as gentle acceptance of your flaws. That's how the "be yourself" thing pays off. You'll even have to find delicate ways to let people down who fall for you, which sucks, but I want to underscore the fact that you can stop worrying that you're destined to be alone.

Did I mention that you were a lesbian? You knew that already, of course. You'll go out with boys just to make sure, and because you want to try to be "normal," and because you're itching to experience everything. That's fine, I guess – just don't expect much. The sooner you face your truth, then the sooner you can live your life fully, with a big s$#t-eating grin to boot. I should also give you a heads-up that "normal" is wildly overrated. You will discover this repeatedly.

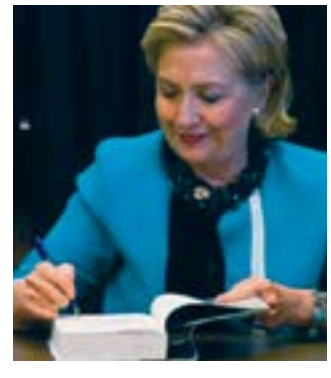
Take all those secrets and things that embarrass you and dump them in the trash. This includes any shame about being gay, your birthmark (everyone has them), or those rock star dreams. As soon as you speak things out loud and claim your quirks proudly, you transform vulnerability into strength. This is the definition of having balls.

Understand that adults are more confused about life than they let on. As a result, they'll inevitably underestimate you. Listen to your gut about whether they are being straight up with you. If so, then pay attention. Ask their opinions, and then remember the ones who really look you in the eyes as they share those opinions with you. Remember the ones who care what you have to say, especially if they take the time to challenge your ideas about things. In about thirty years you'll want to send them a thank-you letter for treating you with real respect.

The future will arrive in due time, and it will be worth all of the struggle to get there. I promise.

Love, me.

Hillary "Evolved"



Former Secretary of State and likely presidential candidate Hillary Clinton says she, like most Americans, evolved on the issue of gay marriage, Igor Bobic reported in The Huffington Post. "I think evolved is the word that a lot of people have used," she said at a CNN town hall on Tuesday. "It fits me as well as it fits others. In large measure based on the experiences that I had with so many people who I knew and cared about.

"And it really became very clear to me that if we're going to support marriage in our country, it should be available to everyone regardless of who they love and that this marriage equality issue is a great human rights issue," she added. "So yes, I evolved over time and I'm very, very proud to state that I'm a full supporter of marriage equality right now."

(Photo by The Seattle Lesbian)

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PA Women Lose Average of $3,869 During GOP Equal Pay Delay

The decision by the state House's Republican majority to delay equal-pay legislation at least four months will cost Pennsylvania working women thousands of dollars each on average, three Democratic lawmakers said.

Rather than hold a vote on a bipartisan bill to act on pay inequity (H.B. 1890), House Republican leaders only allowed a vote on a resolution (H.R. 716) to study the issue. The study doesn't have to be ready until Sept. 1, delaying House action another four months.

Rep. Erin Molchany:

"The Workplace Opportunity Act, H.B. 1890, is the action we must take to address pay discrimination," said Rep. Erin Molchany, D-Allegheny, who introduced the bill with Rep. Brian Sims, D-Phila., on Jan. 2. "We're not talking about creating special privileges, but instead about passing a law that guarantees transparency and defines legitimate factors for determining pay for every Pennsylvanian."

"I voted for the study resolution because, if this latest study is conducted fairly and accurately, it should provide even more evidence that the pay gap is real and needs to be addressed. I want the House to pass legislation that addresses the things we do know contribute to this problem, including raising the minimum wage and making sure women are treated fairly in the workplace. All of these bills have been introduced and are awaiting action in the House, but as with equal-pay legislation, Republican-controlled committees have not moved on any of them," Molchany said.

Rep. Brian Sims:

Sims said, *"Republican leaders' action today will likely force Pennsylvania women to wait at least four more months to have the pay gap addressed. We know that pay inequity exists; we don't need to wait for another study -- we need action. Nationally, the pay gap was $11,607 for 2012 for women working full time, year-round compared to their male counterparts. That would work out to $3,869 lost per woman during the four-month delay under the resolution."*

House Democratic Caucus Chairman Dan Frankel, D-Allegheny, a strong supporter and co-sponsor of H.B. 1890, said, "I voted for this resolution today, but I can assure you that when the findings of this study come back in a few months, if it's conducted accurately, it'll confirm what we already know. And at that time, I'll be back demanding action on House Bill 1890."

House Bill 1890 remains in the House Labor and Industry Committee more than four months after its introduction.

Anti-marriage Group Fined

Maggie Gallagher, NOM President

The Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices recently voted unanimously to impose record civil penalties against the National Organization for Marriage (NOM) totaling $50,250. The commission directed NOM to file disclosure reports with the commission after a four-year investigation exposed "a significant violation of law" by the national anti-LGBT organization. The penalties are reportedly the largest ever imposed for a campaign finance violation in Maine history.

The bipartisan five-member commission concluded that NOM intentionally violated Maine law by failing to register or report its activities despite playing a central role in co-managing and funding a $3 million marriage referendum campaign in 2009. "We thought where there was smoke there was fire. There was," said Commission Chair Walter McKee, who at the open meeting told NOM that to accept its explanation for its fundraising activities would be to "accept a mockery of Maine's election laws."

"The National Organization for Marriage has for seven years engaged in a secret, coordinated scheme funded by a few wealthy anonymous donors intended solely to demean LGBT Americans," said HRC President Chad Griffin. "Maine has lifted the veil on NOM's illegal political activities and exposed its efforts to funnel secret money into its radical national campaign against equality. We commend Maine's regulators for requiring NOM to play by the same disclosure rules that we and many other groups have abided by for years in Maine and across the country."

In 2011, NOM saw a steep decline in the amount of money it raised – dropping to $6.2 million from the $9.1 million it raised the previous year. Just two donors were responsible for funding 75 percent of the anti-gay group. The organization reported two donations of approximately $2.4 million each. The information is available in NOM's 2011 federal tax return, which NOM made available after HRC requested the documents.

PA Diversity Network to Open Allentown Center

June 10 the Pennsylvania Diversity Network launched the "Campaign for Community," a campaign to build an LGBT community center in the Lehigh Valley.

The announcement was part the LGBT Community Leadership Awards Celebration, which honored Easton Mayor Sal Panto, Carol Stevens, Troy Dwyer, Les Bahr and Roger Whitley.

The center will be named the Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center, in honor of longtime LGBT community leaders in the region, Liz Bradbury and Patricia Sullivan. They co-founded Pennsylvania Diversity Network and previously led PA GALA.

Bradbury and Sullivan also led the effort to pass Allentown's non-discrimination law and a successful effort against a voter referendum seeking to overturn it.

Adrian Shanker, former president of Equality Pennsylvania and a Bethlehem resident, will be the Founding Director. He announced that the renovation team will be led by Don Kohn, Kohn Engineering, and project architect is Robert Sandoval, Howard G. Kulp Architects. Both Kohn and Sandoval are providing professional services pro-bono.

The future site of the center will be announced soon, but Mayor Pawlowski indicated the facility will be in downtown Allentown.

To demonstrate community support, the Campaign is seeks to raise $75,000 by the end of September.

Info: www.bradburysullivancenter.org - make donations, volunteer.

Casey Davies New Allies Club President

By Shawn Reed

Casey Davies, 22, computer science major, recently became the president of the Lancaster campus of Harrisburg Area Community College's (HACC) Allies Club. Allies, has traditionally been a club of acceptance, a safe space where students are free to be themselves. "A common misconception about Allies is that we are described as being the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered (LGBT) club on campus and this isn't completely true. Allies is a safe haven for those seeking out equal love and equality amongst all groups," said Davies.

Davies admits that the task of running Allies is daunting. Over the past few years, under former president Heather Venezia, Allies worked to become more visible and selfsufficient by hosting many larger scale events on campus such as a drag show, a fall soup sale, and a presence during Lancaster Pride, hosted each summer in Buchannan Park. "The biggest concern I have about this position is the fact that due to our legacy people are going to expect big things from us and this is my first time in such a lofty position, so I don't want to fail anyone," said Davies.

The task of drawing students to events on HACC's Lancaster campus has been a challenge to many clubs. "The school community has always been a large part of our success, though lately it seems that less and less people have been stopping by our events," said Davies.

Davies hopes to change how the club is received on campus and in the community. "My hope for the future is for us to be one of the more wellknown clubs on campus since we are a safe haven for all individuals to be themselves. As far as where we are going, we plan to incorporate some of the old events we have done in the past as well as trying to start up some new traditions. We look forward to having a very productive year and we hope to see you at our meetings and events," said Davies.

Allies meets every Wednesday from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. in Main 110, in the game room. For more information email Allies at allies.lancaster@gmail.com.

Need Help with Grief and Loss?

Hospice & Community Care offers a grief and loss program open to LBGT individuals who have experienced the death of a partner or spouse at least three months ago.

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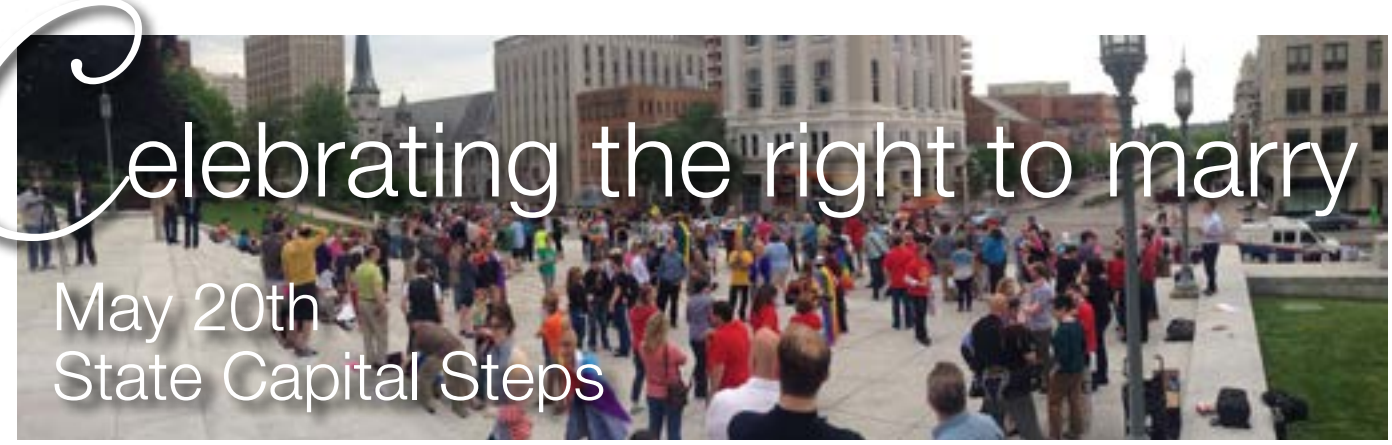

Celebrating the right to marry

May 20th
State Capital Steps

Hbg Mayor Performs First Marriage Ceremony

Together for 38 years, Joseph J. Villone, left, and Terry F. Toothman, right, were married May 28 by Harrisburg Mayor Eric Papenfuse, center, in the atrium of the capital city's Martin Luther King Government Center.

It was the first same-sex marriage ceremony performed by the mayor. The couple said they were "thrilled and honored" to have Papenfuse preside at their wedding since they had worked their entire careers in Harrisburg and love the city. "The honor is all mine in being asked to perform the ceremony," Papenfuse said.

"We thought about getting married in New York but then decided to wait until we could do so here," Vallone told *Central Voice*. He was joined by his son Dean, his wife Vicki and his daughter-in-law Terri.

Papenfuse said of same-sex couples "They are no longer second-class citizens" and in his touching words composed for the ceremony described their relationship as ne of "lovers, companions, and friends".

legal column

By Leo L. Dunn, Attorney at Law

Marriage: How does it help?

Whitewood v. Wolf changed how Pennsylvania looks at marriage. Same sex couples are able to be married in all 67 counties and receive all of the same marriage benefits as other spouses. The Dechert law firm and Mazzoni Center in Philadelphia released a report summarizing the 572 statutory benefits conferred upon spouses in Pennsylvania's Consolidated Statutes. The report is not exhaustive and does not include "judge-made" law from court cases where judges interpret what the law means. That means there are way more than 572 benefits!

Statutory benefits range from preference in leasing for young families under the Agriculture Code, exempting corporate share transfers made between spouses from transfer restrictions in the Corporate Code, crime victim compensation for spouses under the Criminal Code, to spousal rights under the Probate Code. Marriage makes life, and death, easier for spouses

I recommend that same-sex couples seriously consider getting married. It protects your loved one, protects you, and protects your children with one simple ceremony. If you have concerns regarding divorce, develop and sign a prenuptial agreement.

Any couple that has been together for more than five years, same sex or not, should consider the benefits of marriage and divorce. Both confer property rights and how ownership is divided, if needed.

Even couples that have wills giving everything to the other spouse should consider marriage. Pennsylvania does not recognize common law marriages. They were ruled invalid by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court almost 20 years ago. Thus, a couple owning everything jointly, having wills giving each other 100% of assets, and not married have at least one major financial difficulty for whichever partner survives the other. Pennsylvania has a 15% inheritance tax. Getting married changes the inheritance tax from unrelated status (15%) to spousal status (0%).

Think about it, read the Mazzoni/Dechert report, talk to a lawyer that understands GLBT issues and then make your decision from an informed position.

Leo Dunn is an attorney and counselor-at-law practicing in the Harrisburg area with a focus on the estate planning needs of the LGBT community. He may be reached at leodunnlaw@gmail.com

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DID YOU KNOW...

- There are 33,602 same-sex couples living together in PA, according to the latest Census.
- Top 2 ways same-sex couples find wedding vendors: LGBT wedding directories and word of mouth.
- 72% same-sex couples specifically want wedding vendors with LGBT inclusive language, and 69% seek vendors with LGBT inclusive photos in marketing.
- 88% of same-sex couples do not have their ceremony in a place of worship.
- Unmarried same-sex couples in the United States had an average household income of $103,980 according to the U.S. Census, while unmarried heterosexual couples had an average household income of $62,857.

Data Compiled by the Gay Wedding Institute in conjunction with Community Marketing Inc. and other outside sources

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Lancaster PA PRIDE FEST

Scenes from the PrideFest held June 21st at Buchanan Park in Lancaster

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Majority Stay Closeted on the Job

A newly released study by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation entitled "The Cost of the Closet and the Rewards of Inclusion" identifies that 53% of LGBT employees are closeted on the job.

The report comes on the heels of a report by the federal entity known as Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB), which found the policy on workplace discrimination for federal employees based on sexual orientation has not been interpreted uniformly, despite being the government's policy since 1980.

Despite significant strides among the Fortune 500 and other major businesses implementing inclusive employment policies and practices, consistent legal protections are not afforded to LGBT people state to state.

Pennsylvania does not have an employment non-discrimination law protecting LGBT employees. There are no state laws prohibiting workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in 29 states and gender identity in 33 states.

"While LGBT-inclusive corporate policies are becoming the norm, the fact is that LGBT workers still face a national patchwork of legal protections, leaving many to hide who they are for fear of discrimination in the workplace and in their communities," said Deena Fidas, director of HRC's Workplace Equality Program.

"Even among those private sector employers with laudable, inclusive policies and practices, these are necessary but not wholly sufficient for creating a climate of inclusion. Employees are getting married without telling their coworkers for fear of losing social connections, or they're not transitioning even though they know they need to for fear of losing their jobs. The inclusive policies coming from the boardroom have not fully made it into the everyday culture of the American workplace," Fidas said.

The report at a glance:

• Invisible workforce: 53% of LGBT employees hide who they are at work

• Double standards: Over 80% of non-LGBT workers report that conversations about social lives, relationships and dating come up weekly and often daily and 81 percent feel that LGBT people "should not have to hide who they are at work," however less than half would feel comfortable hearing an LGBT coworker talk about dating.

• "That's so gay:" 1 in 4 LGBT employees report hearing negative comments such as "that's so gay" while at work.

• Turnover costs: 1/5 of LGBT workers report looking for a job specifically because the environment wasn't accepting of LGBT identities, and close to 1 in 10 (9%) successfully left a job for the same reasons they were not comfortable.

• Retention benefits of inclusion: 26% have stayed in a job because the environment was accepting.

All of these findings come as more Fortune 500 companies than ever before have implemented inclusive workplace non-discrimination policies — 91 percent provide explicit protections on the basis of sexual orientation and 61 percent on the basis of gender identity, a historic high. Sixty-seven percent offer same-sex partner benefits, another record.

"Employers must go beyond policies to a truly inclusive practice," added Fidas. "By implementing training aimed at improving the day-to-day climate for LGBT employees, workplaces can make significant improvements in the lived experience of their employees, whether in the corner office or on the factory floor," Fidas said.

Examining the Myth of Gay Affluence

By Sue Kerr, MSW, Pittsburgh Lesbian Correspondents

A February report from the Williams Institute revealed that in the last year, 2.4 million LGBT adults (29 percent) experienced a time when they did not have enough money to feed themselves or their family. This is known as being food-insecure - or hungry.

Findings released in June 2013 (Pride Month!) were also dismaying:

Some 14.1 percent of lesbian couples and 7.7 percent of gay male couples receive food stamps, compared with 6.5 percent of different-sex married couples. Moreover, 2.2 percent of women in same-sex couples receive government cash assistance, compared with 0.8 percent of women in different-sex couples; meanwhile, 1.2 percent of men in same-sex couples, compared with 0.6 percent of men in different-sex couples, receive cash assistance.

Almost 25 percent of children living with a male same-sex couple, and 19.2 percent of children living with a female same-sex couple, are living in poverty, compared with 12.1 percent of children living with married different-sex couples. African-American children in gay male households have the highest poverty rate (52.3 percent) of any children in any household type.

Add to this the reality that the trans community faces unemployment rates nearly double that of the typical community and it is clear that the myth of gay affluence is obfuscating the real story of how poverty impacts the entire LGBTQ community. Instead of discussing the horror of someone buying soda pop or a steak with SNAP(food stamps), it would be great to turn the conversation to the things that can't be purchased and think for a minute how we could find a workaround. Even with a great home-economics teacher, it would be a challenge.

10 Things You Can't Buy With Food Stamps:

Toilet paper. In fact, no paper products at all.

Laundry detergent. Again, this is not food.

Tooth paste, tooth brush, dental floss. Don't tell your dentist that dental floss is a luxury item, but the fact is that people without dental insurance are often the ones least likely to be able to afford these items.

Soap. How do you survive without soap?

Diapers. Even under the best conditions, cloth diapers are expensive and time-consuming. And most daycares will not use them, so that's not a viable alternative.

Tampons and pads. This one often shocks people, especially women.

Deodorant. A luxury? Ask the person who works next to someone who doesn't use deodorant.

Hair-care products. I don't really think anyone should be forced to use soap to wash their hair.

Cleaning products. You can't buy these items with food stamps.

Lotion, powder, sunscreen, lip balm. These might be considered luxuries, but what if you work outside all day?

All of this is sobering, but I'm asking you to think through some of the items you take for granted. Then I hope you'll do two things.

First, step back from the temptation to judge what someone else is doing in the grocery store. You don't know their story, and they don't owe you or anyone an explanation. You don't need to carry around that resentment.

Second, you can do something proactive to help. In my case, I've organized a fundraiser to establish a personal-care closet at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Pittsburgh. This will make some of these items available to the local LGBTQ community -- all ages and all identities treated with respect and dignity.

You can start a similar project in your community. Google "personal care closet" with the name of your community to see which organizations are accepting these items. Food pantries will often accept them, as will programs serving homeless people of all ages. A project here in Pittsburgh collects "sister supplies" for public schools to support girls.

In the end it boils down to helping our neighbors - LGBTQ and allies - have the tools they need to function and flourish. You can make that happen by starting a dialogue around the realities of poverty in our community and taking action. To be proud, we need to be honest with ourselves.

Bringing History Out of the Closet

A new project documents and preserves central Pennsylvania LGBT history

Continued from page one

1950 to protect the rights of homosexuals, in response to a request for its help to form an LGBT organization in the Lehigh Valley of southeastern Pennsylvania. "That's what got things started for us here," he recalls. The Mattachine Society sent the letter to LGBT individuals on its mailing list who were living in the Lehigh Valley area surrounding Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton at the time. That resulted in an organizational meeting of the Lehigh Valley Homophile Organization (named Le-Hi-Ho for short), on June 22, 1969, six days before the famous Stonewall Bar raid and riots in the Greenwich Village section of New York City, considered by many as the birth of the LGBT civil rights movement. The letter is the earliest documentation uncovered to date by the history project of a LGBT organization forming in the state outside of Philadelphia.

"The Joe Burns collection really is an archival treasure," says Malinda Triller Doran, special collections librarian at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Cumberland County. History project leaders developed a partnership with the Dickinson College Archives to serve as the repository of the oral histories as well as documents and artifacts being donated by LGBT people from throughout central Pennsylvania. Altogether, the Joe Burns collection measures approximately about six cubic feet of documents all pertaining to LGBT civil rights and community organizing in Pennsylvania from the late 1960s through the early 1980s. It is the largest donation of materials collected so far, but other materials are being continually discovered and donated as more interviews are conducted and word about the initiative spreads. "Joe had the foresight to recognize the importance of what he and other local residents were doing and to save the documentation of their efforts," says Doran.

The history project has ambitious goals. The all-volunteer effort aims to discover, document, preserve and present the history of the LGBT community in central Pennsylvania; identify individuals willing to tell their stories through oral history interviews; and encourage LGBT people to learn about their history. It is a daunting task because the documentation of LGBT history is not easily found and the subject matter has been largely ignored, even avoided, by museums, archives and various historical organizations and cultural institutions. In the past, discrimination and fear of being identified as LGBT resulted in many people taking precautions to destroy personal papers, photographs and other mementos of their lives that would expose their sexual preference, or to keep them hidden away from view. Relatives settling the estate of an LGBT person may consider material like this of no significance or interest to anyone and discard it. The history project first needs to discover the stories, photographs, documents and artifacts and then place them in a broader context and determine the best way to interpret and present them most effectively to the public.

Mary Nancarrow, one of more than 50 volunteers for the project, is another early pioneer in LGBT civil rights organizing in Pennsylvania. Along with Joe Burns and others, she helped organize the Pennsylvania Rural Gay Caucus, a coalition of representatives of several organizations from small cities and towns throughout Pennsylvania, which began in 1975 and was in existence for about eight years.

"We were providing support for one another by organizing these groups," Nancarrow remembers. "There was no support in these rural areas and we needed to come together to make sure everyone stayed alive. We were all very different people, but we shared a common bond, a common purpose."

Nancarrow began her LGBT organizing activities while attending college, helping to establish a student organization called Gays United at Shippensburg. Later she would become a leader in the women's equal rights movement in Pennsylvania working in local chapters of the National Organization for Women (NOW) in Franklin and Dauphin counties and eventually rising to become president of the state chapter. She is now retired after a professional career with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission.

While involved with NOW, Nancarrow worked to eradicate discrimination based on sexual orientation through advocating for local ordinances in Allentown and Harrisburg. The initiative in Allentown failed in its first attempt in 1977, but succeeded in Harrisburg in 1983, becoming the second city in the state to adopt such an ordinance, after Philadelphia. Allentown later passed a local non-discrimination ordinance in 2002. Thirty-three municipalities have enacted similar local ordinances because

Timeline of LGBT Bars at 400 North Street, Harrisburg
La Rose Rouge, 1978-1990
The Dandelion Tree, 1976-1978
The Apple and the Frenchman, 1974-1975
The 400 Club, 1967-1974
The Clock Bar, 1938-1966

Al Apple and Chuck Clement were photographed in May 1974 by a Patriot-News photographer for the opening of their new bar and restaurant, the Apple and the Frenchman at 400 N. 2nd Street in Harrisburg, one of a series of LGBT bars at this location. (Photo from the collection of the Dauphin County Historical Society)

TOP: Meeting of the Pennsylvania Rural Gay Caucus held in Wilkes-Barre ca. 1975 (Photo by Bari Weaver, from the LGBT History Project collection of the Dickinson College Archives and Special Collections)

In search of central Pennsylvania's earliest LGBT bar

Where did LGBT people in central Pennsylvania go to find each other in the early to mid-20th century? Oral history accounts point to the Clock Bar, which opened in Harrisburg in 1938 at 400 North Second St., as being the first LGBT bar in the region. It is not known if LGBT people immediately began to patronize the bar when it opened, but oral history accounts indicate that it had a gay following at least as early as the 1950s. One thing is certain, though. There was a gay bar in that location under a series of different names and owners from as early as 1938 until the last, La Rose Rouge, closed in 1990. Other contenders for the earliest gay bar include bars at the Warner Hotel and the Plaza Hotel, both of which were demolished to accommodate the development of downtown Harrisburg.

there is no statewide law prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation.

"We had to try to overcome the many harmful things that the anti-gay segments of society were trying to do to us," says Nancarrow. "We had no idea what freedom would feel like, but we just kept working toward that goal."

Nancarrow, Burns and others participated in a Story Circle in October 2013, a program of the history project at the LGBT Center during which they shared memories and experiences in LGBT community organizing and activism. The project is planning to expand its programming at the LGBT Center to conduct quarterly events.

As the project sifts through the impressive amount of information from the past, Lonna Malmsheimer, professor emerita and research professor of American Studies at Dickinson College, also thinks about the future. "We really need to write this history," she says. "I can see a wide range of results from this material, including exhibits, publications, video documentaries and an interactive website." Dr. Malmsheimer, who possesses extensive experience in oral history and historical research, provides training for project volunteers conducting the interviews.

The history project has a presence on the LGBT Center of Central Pennsylvania website, www.centralpalgbtcenter.org, but organizers plan to develop a much more comprehensive content-rich series of pages that will allow the public a window into the LGBT past.

Joe Burns and Mary Nancarrow share some memories while looking at an historic photo at the LGBT Center in Harrisburg.

Photo by Don Giles, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

History Comes Out, the first exhibit of archival documents and artifacts from the History Project collection was displayed at the Waidner-Spahr Library at Dickinson College in October 2013 in celebration of LGBT History Month. The exhibit featured a selection of documents and artifacts from the History Project donations to the Dickinson College Archives and Special Collections, curated by intern Mana Shaw, Dickinson College (class of 2014). Items included organization newsletters, event posters and flyers, commemorative pins from marches and other documents from Harrisburg, Lancaster, Pittsburgh and other locations in the state. At a reception for the exhibit, attended by more than 70 people, another table was set up to display the most recent donations that included about ten years of issues of a monthly publication Lavender Letter, which chronicled the news and events of the lesbian community in the central Pennsylvania region; a collection of trophies and other memorabilia from the Harrisburg Hustlers gay volleyball team; and t-shirts, photographs and artifacts from two gay bars in Harrisburg, Shadows and the Archives Bar, both no longer in existence.

"So often the collections that we receive in the archives come to us by happenstance," says Doran. "By collaborating with the LGBT Center's History Project, we can be proactive in seeking materials that tell the story of LGBT life and activism in our region. We believe it is important to provide a space where these stories can be preserved and shared so that the efforts of these individuals and organizations are not forgotten."

The project is one of at least three such projects in the Commonwealth documenting LGBT community history. Other projects are ongoing in Philadelphia and New Hope. Many large cities throughout the country have LGBT history projects and a forthcoming documentary film, Reel in the Closet, is meant to draw national attention to the need to find and safeguard the evidence of LGBT history.

"We are finding a surprising amount of discrimination among the stories told by our narrators," says Malmsheimer. "I guess that should not have come as such a surprise. Some of these stories are quite tragic, but they also document a great amount of courage and perseverance."

Many of the oral history interviewees provided information about how and when LGBT organizations were created, helping to explain the evolution of the LGBT community in central Pennsylvania. Others have been able to furnish a timeline and evolution of LGBT bars dating to the 1940s. Before the first LGBT organizations appeared in the late 1960s and early 1970s, bars and private parties were the primary social outlets for LGBT people to meet and establish places that helped build a sense of community.

As I said goodbye to Joe Burns, I couldn't help but notice he was beaming. "I'm really happy that these documents are going to be preserved," he said. It is a feeling of validation and a sense of respect that he and so many others now share, knowing that their stories, memorabilia and the legacy of their role in LGBT history will live on to educate and inform others of the seminal moments of generations of courageous LGBT people who have made a difference.

Barry A. Loveland is the chair of the steering committee for the LGBT Center of Central Pennsylvania History Project. He is chief of the Division of Architecture and Preservation for the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, where he has worked for the past 30 years. He has been active in LGBT community organizing for 35 years. The author and his partner of 28 years, artist Thom Kulp, were married in Towson, Md., on December 27, 2013.

"Bringing History out of the Closet" by Barry A. Loveland originally appeared in the Spring 2014 edition (Volume XL, Number 2) of Pennsylvania Heritage, co-published by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) and the Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation and is reprinted with their permission.

An exhibit of selections from the History Project collection was held during October 2013 to commemorate LGBT History Month. (Photo by Don Giles, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission)

Project Gains Award

Barry Loveland, History Project principal, reports that the project has won a national award. In a letter from the Society of American Archivists, the J. Franklin Jameson Advocacy Award subcommittee notified Loveland that the committee has selected the LGBT Center of Central Pennsylvania History Project as the award recipient for this year.

"This award has been given to you for making significant contributions to discover and preserve the history of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) community throughout Pennsylvania.

"We were particularly impressed by your efforts to coordinate with archival programs and to use Dickinson College as the permanent repository of the archival, artifact and oral history collections collecting by the History Project. This will ensure permanent and professional care and public access. Your efforts to provide website access to the collections are also commendable."

From far left, Tim Gill, Gill Foundation founder; Corey Johnson, New York City District 3 City Council member; US Secretary Sally Jewell. (Photo by Frank Pizzoli)

LGBT History to be Studied;

Bittersweet Irony at Hand

By Frank Pizzoli

May 30 the US Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell announced a program that would include LGBT contributions to the country's history. She made the announcement in front of the historic Stonewall Inn, the site of a 1969 riot widely recognized as a catalyst for the modern LGBT civil-rights movement. Like the bittersweet ironies found in LGBT literary works that contribute to the nation's cultural history, GetEqual advocates stood in the rear of the crowd with a huge sign: "Don't stop at our history. Full federal equality now!"

Although the federal government is poised to include LGBT contributions to the nation's history, there has been no formidable action by the Obama administration or Congress on passage of an Employment Non-discrimination Act (ENDA). The kingdom hasn't come yet for the LGBT community. Jewell said, "We know that there are other sites, like Stonewall Inn, that have played important roles in our nation's ongoing struggle for civil rights" and that they would be included in the project. Just as there are more historic LGBT sites and accomplishments to be included in order to construct a full national history, there is more civil rights work to be accomplished in order to achieve full human rights.

Speaking after Jewell, Gill Foundation's Tim Gill opened his remarks by noting GetEqual's presence at the event. He asked the advocates to hold up the sign for everyone to see. "Today is important but there is still work to be done," Gill said.

The new program is a public/private partnership with financial support from Gill Foundation and others.

Tanya Domi, GetEqual's board chair said, "Our history is extensively documented, reflecting daily oppression that confronts each LGBTQ person's life every minute of their existence." She said, "We support the efforts to document the history of LGBTQ people. However, we need President Obama to create a roadmap for full federal LGBTQ equality in order to prohibit discrimination."

Contributions made by HIV-positive individuals to the nation's history were noted by Corey Johnson, New York City District 3 City Council member, who took the seat vacated by council speaker Christine Quinn who unsuccessfully ran for mayor.

"I know that Gay Men's Health Crisis founded in this city has had a historic impact here and in other cities across the country," Johnson said, a 32-year-old HIV-positive man. The rate of HIV infection among US men who have sex with men is 2.4%. That means if nothing changes 40% of gay men by the age of 40 will be infected. Current data shows that 50% of African-American men who turned 18 in 2009 and who have sex with men will be HIV-positive by age 35. Let's not have these figures be documented and ensconced in what our federal government documents about the gay male community in a national program to acknowledge our history.

An Interior Dept. news release says: "Over the next 12 to 18 months, the National Park Service will work with scholars to explore ways to celebrate and interpret LGBT heritage." Let's hope that over the next 12-18 months, the Obama administration and congress act on ENDA. Let's hope that over the next 12-18 months there is a renewed effort to deal with HIV stigma and rising infection rates among gay men.

Why Fred Phelps's Son Wants To Be a Pro-Gay Filmmaker

By Josh Dieker & Central Voice

Nate Phelps

The late "Reverend" Fred Phelps, founder of the Westboro Baptist Church in my hometown of Topeka, Kansas, died a few short months ago, but his family carries on his hateful legacy still. These *ssholes continue to protest funerals, concerts, graduations, and just about any other venue they can find where they might get even a hint of media attention. Their message that God hates gay people, and basically everyone else, has become tired and anachronistic in an age where marriage equality and non-discrimination laws are spreading across the country faster than anyone would have imagined.

The hate, however, is real, and for many it still hurts. Phelps victimized thousands during his lifetime, but perhaps none as badly as his own children. Stories from within the Phelps compound indicate a pattern of abuse and cruelty aimed at anyone who was less than perfectly obedient at all times to the family patriarch.

One of the targets of that abuse, Phelps's son Nate, escaped the church at midnight on his 18th birthday, never to return. Now residing in Canada, Nate is now a vocal ally to the LGBT community, and often speaks about child abuse, as well as the danger of religion.

Nate is now working on a Documentary Film, titled *Not My Father's Son*, and has begun a Kickstarter to help fund its production. The film will follow his story through the abuse he suffered as a child, through his growth and healing as an adult, culminating with his development into an advocate for equality and justice for all people.

Perhaps his son's legacy of fairness and equality will just maybe overshadow the legacy of hate that his father left behind.

Central Voice talked with Alanna Berger, co-founder of The Silent Witness organization, about her and husband Blaise's conversations of several years ago with Fred Phelps' son Nate Phelps. The organization is now known as Silent Witness Peacekeepers Alliance, after a like-minded group joined forces.

"We started talking to Nate four years ago when we had our first Silent Witness Peacekeepers conference," Berger said. Known for their signature rainbow umbrellas, Silent Witness Peacekeepers Alliance (SWPA) is an organization of gay and straight allies dedicated to providing a non-confrontational buffer between the LGBT (lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender) community and those who would protest LGBT events.

The organization's web site explains that the group members "are peacekeepers, not counter-protesters, protecting everyone's right of free speech." Traditionally, they provide visual protection from "street preachers" and protesters at events such as LGBT Pride festivals and other events.

Estranged from his father and the clan that forms the nucleus of the church, the organization wanted to have him speak. The group couldn't afford him then, but kept trying to find a way to bring him here. "Blaise was finally able to get him at Millersville University for an MU Allies' event" a couple of years ago.

"He believes his family should be ignored. They thrive on attention," Berger told Central Voice. Fred Phelps, his son told her, has been mentally ill for decades, and his family has suffered for it.

She believes that love and compassion have swayed many of his grandchildren to leave the cult. "The count is somewhere around 15-16 at this point," Berger said.

The late "Reverend" Fred Phelps, founder of the Westboro Baptist Church

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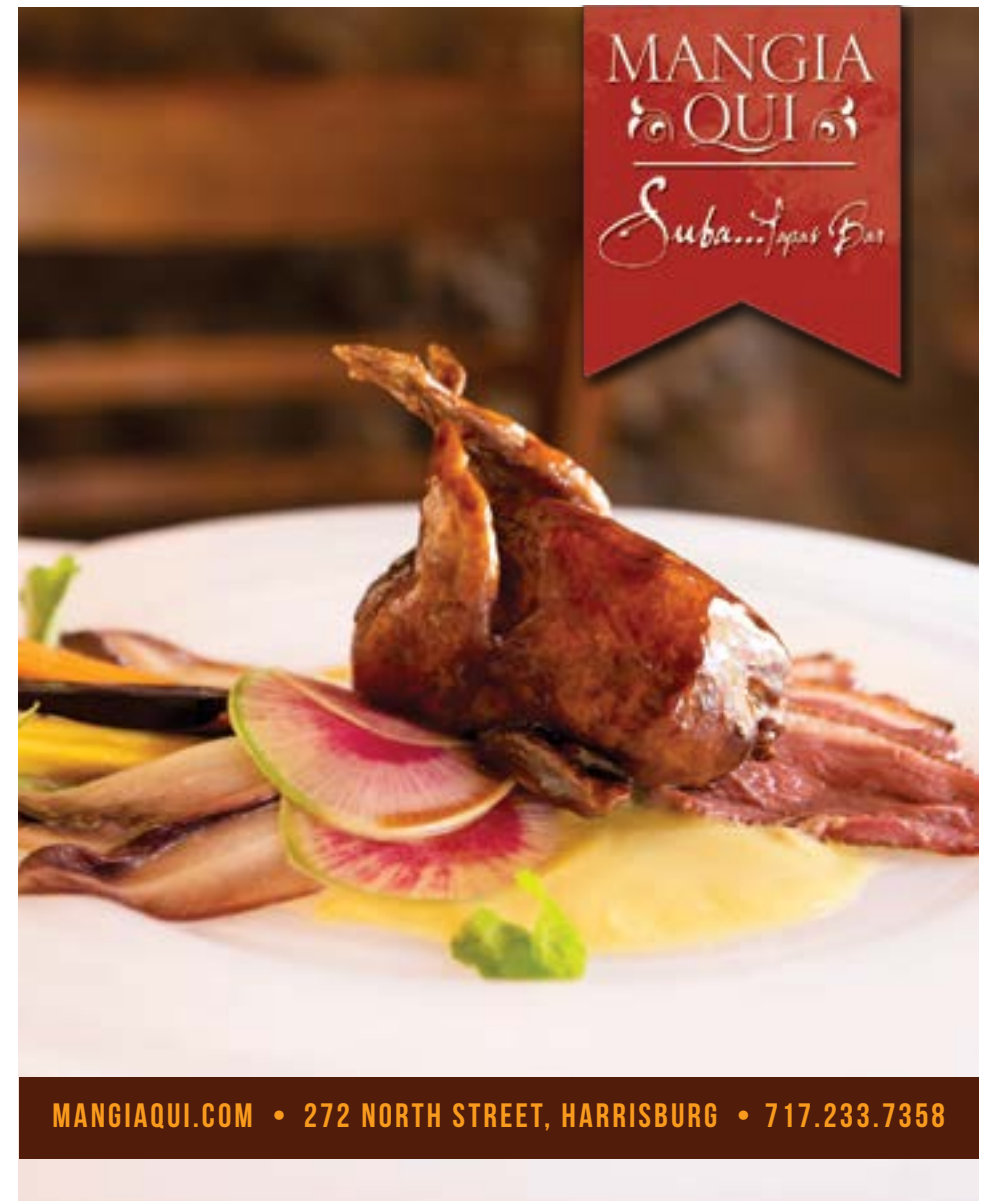

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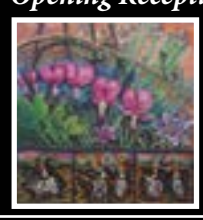

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LOCAL TALENT:

Take 147 Has Nothin' To Lose

By Frank Pizzoli

From left, Rochelle Smith, lead guitar and vocals; Patty Wilson, drums; Gretta Zechman, rhythm guitar and vocals; and Amber Grunden, bass.
Photo by Sabrina Kreps

Local band sensation Take 147 is set to release their first CD *Nothin' to Lose*.

"We're layin' it all on the line with the CD," explains Amber Grunden, the group's bass player. The band is well known throughout the region and performed last year as headliner at Central PA Pride Festival.

Take 147 performs rock, classic rock, and alternative rock from the 80's to present and are one of the region's few all "girl" rock bands.

Formed in late 2005 by Amber Grunden, Gretta Zechman, and Patty Wilson with Rochelle Smith joining the band in 2010, they have a strong local following called the Takers. Their younger followers are called Taker Tots.

Music lovers may have already seen their hugely popular song "House Party" video which features signature chorus *Where the naked ladies at?* "At every good party there's at least one partially naked lady," says Gretta, who plays rhythm guitar and does vocals for the band.

The song's origin starts with local TV personality Janelle Stelson, co-anchor, WGAL News 8, who Patty explains was one night talking about Carnival in Rio De Janeiro . At one point, Stelson asks, "Where the naked ladies at?" We took it from there," Rochelle said. The band had several partially naked ladies at a show that took place right before our interview.

In *Pennsylvania Musician Magazine* Rachel Rocks in her column says: It's so awesome to see a whole band of women rockin' out on stage. Gretta has an amazing vocal range and it's awesome to hear all the music they can cover. Rochelle looks like a true rock star with her fan blowing her hair out of her face, so she can rock her heart out! Gretta and Patty, behind the kit, even change places to help make their show even more versatile...Their "takers" are wild, and Take 147 definitely knows how to throw a party!

Now it's time for the band to produce their own music.

Nothin' to Lose will showcase the band's original music, which took them several months to write the songs and only four months to record. "We did 10 songs in eight sessions, in about 40 hours," Amber >

MAJESTIC THEATRE

Gettysburg College - August 2, 7 p.m.
Route 30 Three! World Premiere

The World Premiere of John Putch's final chapter of the trilogy focuses on the mysterious disappearance of Rotten Egg, a camera that reveals the truth in every photo, and man's search to become 'less' boring. This stand alone comedy delivers a romantic and upbeat message about relationships and the truth behind every story. Includes cast and filmmaker Q&A/ Talkback after screening. Official DVD launch of all three films for purchase and autographing.
Tickets: $17 First 100 admitted receive a souvenir poster.
Contact: 717-337-8200; boxofficeinfo@gettysburg.edu

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Box Office: 717-397-7425

OPEN STAGE OF HARRISBURG

Greenbelt Events - July 19
The Royal Noise and Electric Soul Pandemic

Founded in 2010 by guitarist Johan Harvey and saxophonist/keyboardist Mike LaBombard, The Royal Noise forges an ebullient, high energy fusion of sinewy funk, gritty jazz and psychedelic rock, reminiscent of funk fusion acts like Herbie Hancock, Lettuce and Galactic, while drawing influence from dance/jam driven sensibilities in the vein of Umphreys McGee and Phish.
Abbey Bar, Appalachian Brewing Company
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advance/door
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Legally Blonde, The Musical

Join us for this delightfully comic and upbeat musical version of the hit movie of the same title. Legally Blonde chronicles the romantic and educational misadventures of young Elle Woods at Harvard Law School, where she has followed the boyfriend who dumped her when he decided it was time to get serious about his life. Elle, who has never had a serious thought, gradually learns — and triumphantly demonstrates — that being blonde and being smart are not mutually exclusive attributes. Full of charm and breezy satire, the thoroughly vivacious Legally Blonde is sure to take EPAC by pink storm.
Tickets: (717) 733-7966; epacboxoffice@gmail.com

HERSHEY THEATRE

Aug. 5, 8 p.m.
3 Doors Down Acoustic

3 Doors Down will bring their Acoustic "Songs From The Basement" tour to Hershey.
Fans have embraced and celebrated the band's acoustic touring since they first began staging these performances in January featuring deep cuts and hits from their catalog of songs. Over the last few months, they have been "in the basement" digging up more gems to perform on these upcoming shows alongside their biggest hits.
1-800-745-3000, HersheyTheatre.com.

"It's time we did this, made our own album."
-Amber Grunden

Take 147 during a live performance. *Photo by Sabrina Kreps*

said. "It's time we did this, made our own album," she explained. There is one cover song on the CD and one other piece, a different musical arrangement of one of the 10 songs. They worked with Jason Shaffer at Full Tilt Productions, in Mechanicsburg who Gretta explained "understood what we were doing. We had that artistic rapport with him and that's important."

The band will play some big venues this summer, including Megaton Festival, Toledo, OH and Up in Flames, in Hell, Michigan. Take 147 performs about 30 times a year.

Personal side

Amber began writing music in high school, winning musical contests. Gretta bought her first guitar at age 12. She saved her $1 a week allowance for a year and then bought a sleek black electric guitar at Hills Department Store. Patty started playing music in 5th grade, playing the violin and viola in the school orchestra and later playing guitar in high school and college. Rochelle became interested in the guitar in middle school. After countless hours of air guitar to Judas Priests' Living' British Steel album, Rochelle got a guitar for Christmas when she was 13 and started lessons. She formed her first band in the 11th grade.

From their childhood starts with music, the energetic foursome has honed their musical and personal lives into a routine that works for them. "We meet twice weekly, One night for band business. One night to practice," says Amber. Most of the women have a partner whose needs are "important to us too, it's not just about the band," Rochelle says.

All of the band members' collective experiences will come together with the new CD.

"We're a big melting pot of musical experiences. Out of the chaos comes the music," Gretta concludes.

Info: www.take 147.com

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book reviews

By Deborah Battisti & Lori Lane
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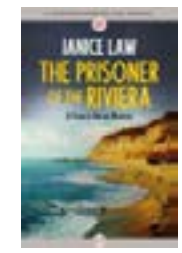
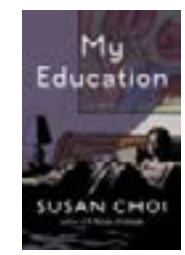
Enjoy these 2014 Lambda Award Winners. Pick them up at your local Dauphin County Library. While you're there, sign yourselves and your kids up for the Summer Reading Program. You could win a Meep!X2 or Kindle Fire.

Clean Slate by Andrea Bramhall – This lesbian romance is a love story.... but it is also about a family's journey through hard times...to home!



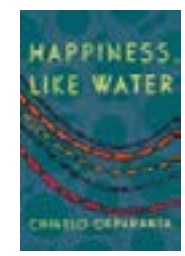
The Prisoner of the Riviera by Janice Law. This mystery is for readers who like twisty tales with odd characters, like gay painter and detective, Francis Bacon.

The End of San Francisco by Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore – a fascinating "her-story" of queer San Francisco with a humble realness of life, growth, and awareness.



My Education by Susan Choi. An intimately charged novel of desire and disaster.

Padisah's Son and the Fox: an Erotic Novella by Alex Jeffers. An erotic fairy tale set in a Turkish prison on the Black Sea.



Happiness, Like Water by Chinelo Okparanta. Short stories about Nigerian women as they build lives out of longing and hope, faith and doubt.

York to Host First Equality Festival Aug. 3

York Festival Includes Same-Sex Weddings

by Central Voice

In association with more than a dozen partners, the City of York Human Relations Commission is sponsoring the day-long family-friendly arts, culture and community festival at York's Cherry Lane Park, 34 W. Philadelphia St., from noon to 8 p.m.

The event celebrates the inclusion of LGBT individuals from York and surrounding communities. Organizers were inspired by the May 20 decision of the U.S. Federal District Court to allow same-sex marriage in Pennsylvania.

The free admission event is open to the general public. The festival will feature a main stage with music, dance, theater, poetry, spoken word and performance art as well as children's games and activities, retail vendors, informational displays and food trucks.

The day also includes a group same-sex wedding officiated by York Mayor Kim Bracey. Couples who wish to legally marry as part of the festival must: (1) register for a County of York marriage license, (2) contact Deb Busch, York City Hall (717-849-2221) by July 7, 4 p.m., (3) register with the mayor's office to be married on that date. The fee to register with the mayor's office is $25 for York city residents, $50 for couples residing outside York. Participation is limited to the first 10 couples registering for the group ceremony.

The event provides the opportunity to raise awareness of York city as a dynamic cultural destination and as a community that celebrates the full inclusion of its diverse citizens in all aspects of civic life, regardless of race, age, gender, mental or physical ability, economic status or sexual orientation.

Individuals, organizations or vendors seeking information can contact York City Arts & Cultural Community Liaison, Carla Christopher at cchristopher@yorkcity.org or visit http://equalityfestyork.com.

Planning committee members include Co-chairs Carla Christopher, James Sawor, Daniel Hawkes; Vera Lynn DiPietro and Mark Rhodes.

Co-chairs, Sawor and Christopher

Live Art by Lovie Price & Brett Greiman
The Equality Fest Interactive Photo Booth
Games & Activities in the Children's Area
Retail Vendors & Information Displays
Delicious Food Trucks

Hosts:	*J Branch & Vera Lynn DiPietro (12:30 - 3:00pm)*
	Carla Christopher & James Sawor (3:00pm - 5:30pm)
	Sharee McFadden (5:30pm - 8:00pm)
SCHEDULE:	
12:00 – 12:15pm	*Harrisburg Gay Men's Chorus*
12:15 – 12:25pm	*Welcome by Planning Committee Co-Chairs and Representative Kevin Schreiber*
12:25 – 12:35pm	*A Victory Celebration by Equality PA Director, Ted Martin*
12:35 – 12:45pm	*An Equality Fest Proclamation by York City Council*
12:45 – 12:55pm	*A Message from Mayor Eric Papenfuse (Catherine Stetler)*
12:55 – 1:25pm	*Group Wedding officiated by Mayor C. Kim Bracey with original poem by York City Poet Laureate Christine Lincoln, music by Suzi Brown & the Central PA Womyn's Chorus*
1:25 – 1:30pm	*A Toast to the Newlyweds by District Judge, Joel Toluba*
1:30 -1:40pm	*Encouragement for the Journey, LGBT Center, Louie Marven & Central PA LGBT Chamber of Commerce, Harry Young*
1:40 – 1:55pm	*Caroline Rose (Music)*
1:55 – 2:10pm	*John Terlazzo (Poetry & Storytelling)*
2:10 – 2:25pm	*YLT's Reader's Theater*
2:25 – 2:40pm	*York Social Dance Studio*
2:40 – 2:45pm	*Lexi Spino (Poetry)*
2:45 – 3:00pm	*Jack Veasey (Poetry)*
3:00 – 3:15pm	*The Ladies of "The Queen's View" (Drag Performance)*
3:15 – 3:35pm	*Dustin Koller (Music)*
3:35 – 3:45pm	*Sandra Polvinale (Storyteller)*
3:45 – 4:05pm	*Galactic Sunrise (Music)*
4:05 – 4:15pm	*Maysa (Spoken Word)*
4:15 – 4:45pm	*Indian Summer Jars (Music)*
4:45 – 5:00pm	*Dustin Nispel (Spoken Word)*
5:00 – 5:20pm	*Kindred (Music)*
5:20 – 5:35pm	*Tribal Belly Dance*
5:35 – 6:05pm	*Suzi Brown (Music)*
6:05 – 6:20pm	*Ladi Glori (Spoken Word)*
6:20 – 6:50pm	*The Sabrina Duke Band (Music)*
6:50 – 7:05pm	*Soul Cry (Spoken Word)*
7:05 – 7:25pm	*Boots & Kat (Music)*
7:25 – 7:55pm	*The Ladies of Lux Night Lounge w/ Jada Sparkxxx (Drag)*
7:55 – 8:00pm	*Closing*

MCC column

By Rev. Lori Rivera, Pastor
MCC of the Spirit

Remembering and Celebrating!

I love "Pride" time. Everyone gets excited about the weekend events. Everyone's in their rainbow colors. All our signs and posters are bright and cheerful. Those getting booths at the festivals work to figure out how do we promote ourselves? What do we give away this year or what do we sell? What will make us stand out from the other booths? We all work on how to put our best foot forward.

Yet I believe that Pride has a more important significance in our lives then a time to celebrate and party. Pride is a time to remember. It is a time to remember where we came from. I don't mean where we were born although this might be important to some. What I mean is to remember what we have overcome or gone through in our lives.

We might remember our coming out. For some it might have been quite painful and for others a release and a claiming of freedom. For some it might have been something in between. I was one of those at the "in between" state. I was scared to death to tell my parents but was very relieved to finally come out and completely surprised by their reaction. My dad said, "Tell us something we don't already know" and then he proceeding to tell me about the other gay members of the family. Yet whether our coming out was difficult or easy, I believe we can be thankful we have come through the process or at least I am thankful that I have come through. Maybe that is a benefit of pride - celebrating how we have moved forward personally.

As a person of faith, I also celebrate my moving forward from a person who was told that God couldn't love me because I was a lesbian to a person who now celebrations God's love for all of us - gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, unlabeled, and straight. This moving forward came after more than 25 years of studying the Bible to learn that the condemnation poured upon me by my brother, a Southern Baptist seminary student at the time of my coming out, was wrong. A day of pride and celebration came the day my mom came to me and told me she had gone to the library to do research. She learned that my being homosexual wasn't a choice but just who I was born to be and she was accepting of who I am.

Pride - remembering and celebrating all the paths that brought me to where I am today. Pride - remembering and celebrating the paths we all have traveled. Pride - remembering and celebrating all we have overcome. I hope that you are celebrating with pride all of who you are.

Invitation: I would like to invite you to two pride celebrations. The first is our "Pride Celebration" Worship Service on July 27 at 10 a.m. at MCC of the Spirit. The second is the "Spirits United" Pride Interfaith Service at MCC of the Spirit, 7 p.m., July 27.

Pride - *celebrating who we are yesterday, today and tomorrow!*

World Premiere: “Route 30, Three!” Movie Aug. 2-3

The third installment of the offbeat backwoods trilogy premieres at the Majestic Theater in Gettysburg followed by stops in York and Iowa City, IA. The screenings and DVD launch party are Aug. 2, 7 p.m. and Aug. 3, 3 p.m.

The film includes local talent. Local favorite Mister Ed, Chambersburg’s own Molly Lahr and St. Thomas native Alicia Fusting will return for the third outing. All films were shot in South Central Pennsylvania and locally in the towns of Fayetteville, Orrtanna, Chambersburg, Gettysburg & Biglerville. You need not see one to understand another.

"Route 30 Three!" completes native Pennsylvania filmmaker John Putch’s three picture trilogy set along US 30 in South Central PA. Just as before, Putch and his cast and crew will attend the event and hold a Q&A after the screenings with the audience.

Nathalie Boltt as Agent Nat, who came all the way from New Zealand to play the role, and actor Ray Ficca, former Totempole Playhouse managing director.

All 3 films (including the new one) will be available at the venue for purchase and autographing by the cast. The date is also the official DVD and Blu Ray launch.

The final chapter of the trilogy focuses on the mysterious disappearance of local curmudgeon Rotten Egg (Lee Wilkof), a camera that reveals the truth in every photo, and a man’s quest to become ‘less’ boring. As the town of Fayetteville struggles to learn the facts, Tork (David Cowgill) is visited by the CIA. A hidden past is revealed that changes the course of his life forever. This stand alone comedy delivers a romantic and upbeat message about relationships and the truth behind every story.

“James Bond meets Blazing Saddles” is how I’d describe it”, said John Putch from the set of ‘Cougar Town’ which he directs during the TV season. “A lot of questions will be answered in the final film. The production values are top notch and it is sure to please the trilogy fans young and old! There’s romance, comedy and plenty of intrigue.”

In addition to local talent alongside the Los Angeles and New York based actors,

Totem Pole titans Wil Love, Carl Schurr and Ray Ficca will also appear in new roles and Dan Poole from Baltimore returns as the lovable ‘Stickle’. Route 30 alumni Nathalie Boltt traveled all the way from her home in New Zealand to appear opposite David Cowgill in the final installment.

The first two films in the trilogy have racked up over 25 film festival awards including multiple ‘Best Feature’ and ‘Best Director’ honors. “Route 30”, “Route 30, Too!” & “Route 30 Three!” are stand-alone films. .

Tickets: www.gettysburgmajestic.org or at the box office or www.route30three.

Reality TV for These Times

With the way some US Supreme Court decisions have been going, or could go, *Central Voice* proposes some Reality TV series to reflect the popular culture.

American Taliban - All organized and disorganized religious groups hold panel discussions on: Why If the Whole Country Doesn’t Accept My Beliefs As Their Own, I’m a Victim

Dancing with CEOs - Watch as Wall Street Execs waltz their way to becoming billionaires at taxpayers’ expense by concocting financial schemes even they don’t understand.

Socialize Loss - Refuse to offer health care coverage and force employees onto Medicaid. Pay low wages so employees must rely on Food Stamps. Then bitch a lot.

Privatize Profit - All profit to the corporation. All loss to the taxpayers. Then give high and mighty speeches about Rugged Individualism.

White House Auction - Watch the nation’s billionaires bid on occupying the White House for four years. Then selling shares to friends.

White House Auction, 2nd Season, *Immigration Reform* - American citizenship is no longer a requirement to be US President. Any billionaire can bid on the White House.

Loverboy: The Grown-Up Style and Sound of Adam Joseph

By Paul Hutnick

Adam Joseph is best known for his underground gay anthem “Faggoty Attention”, however, the talented singer, songwriter, and producer is no one hit wonder.

In 2009 he was featured as a vocalist on Grammy-nominated producer Bob Sinclar’s album “Born in ‘69”. His song “Can’t Stop” was among the “Top 10 Most Played Dance Songs of 2010” on Sirius/XM Radio and his last single, “All 4 U”, with German DJ Duo Plastik Funk landed on Beatport’s Top 10. His music has been heard in multiple feature films and television Shows. Yet still, it always comes back to “Faggoty Attention.”

That may change this month as the Cincinatti-born singer who now lives in New York releases his next album, Love Philosophy. The first single is “What’s A Lover To Do?”, a sexified R&B track.

Is “What’s a Lover To Do” really by the same singer that released “Faggoty Attention”?

It’s the same guy! I’m like any outfit worn by the Olsen twins. I have lots of layers.

Is it meant to be a proclamation that Adam Joseph is all grown up?

I am a gay musician living in NYC. I don’t grow up. I just grow.

What is inspiring your music these days?

Sound wise, I’m still inspired by my musical heroes of yesteryear: Marvin Gaye, Al Green, Chaka Khan, and The Gap Band. I draw a lot of stylistic inspiration from Erykah Badu. Lyrically, the music is inspired by my relationships and the fantasy life I live everyday. The stronger the emotion I have, the more likely I am to write about it.

How do you feel about comparisons to Robin Thicke?

I’ll be the gay Robin Thicke if Robin Thicke is the straight white version of someone else. I like some of his songs but the video for “Blurred Lines” was a big turn-off for me personally.

Who would you prefer to be compared to?

I don’t like being compared to others but if you had to pin a comparison on me I would prefer the white, gay version of Pharrell, since I write, produce, sing and wear big hats.

Did you intend for “What’s a Lover To Do” to be so sexually charged?

The song was meant to be smooth and sensual. The music video was meant to take the feeling of the song into an unexpected direction, which I think any good music video should do. It was definitely meant as a gag for gag’s sake.

The video tells the story of a tranny prostitute.

The video stars my muse, Erickatoure Aviance as a trans fetish call girl. I wanted to bridge the world of fetish fantasy and real life by humanizing the sex worker and showing that they are not simply sex objects. I think the risqué subject matter gives new meaning and feeling to the lyrics and vibe of the song.

Do you have a fascination with tranny hookers?

I certainly have a fascination with drag queens. I live for the fashion, humor and attitude. They are a unique and important piece of gay culture. As far as hookers go, I’ve been fascinated with them ever since I saw Julia Roberts in Pretty Woman.

What will be the next release from your Love Philosophy album?

I’m releasing the second single soon. It’s called “Cigarettes”. It’s a song about killing yourself...slowly.

Visit AdamJosephMusic.com

Hear Me Out

By Chris Azzopardi

LYKKE LI, *I NEVER LEARN* **GRADE: A-**

Because it's Lykke Li, heartache is the obvious impetus for I Never Learn, a ceaseless outpouring of dire, pillow-soaked woe inspired by the Swedish singer's very public post-breakup brokenness. Though best known for her Twilight: New Moon ballad, "Possibility," that anguish has been Li's modus operandi since her 2008 debut, Youth Novels (it's telling that the follow-up was called Wounded Rhymes). But here, especially, Li is sprawled on the floor in pieces, dead. Lamenting how she's "Never Gonna Love Again" over a rush of melancholy atmospherics, the song is undeniably suited for radio, no matter how un-pop Li claims to be. Similarly ethereal is "Just Like a Dream," an orchestral torch-song serenade best heard with the lights out, in the quiet of the night. Like a lot of I Never Learn, "Dream" conveys emotional conflict. What she should do isn't what she wants to do: "I'm letting you go, I'm setting you free." On "Silverline," the dankness counters her quest for hope, as she pleads, "be grace, I need it" ... and the cold percussion prevails. This circle of self-defeating torment doesn't allow for a break in the clouds; Li's headspace is constantly flooded with fears and doubts, and only on the beautifully lovelorn coda "Sleeping Alone" does she sound like she might save herself. All nine songs are engulfed in dispirited tragedy, but Li's vulnerable authenticity goes a long way toward making I Never Learn a hopelessly sad catharsis of moving on and letting go.

LILY ALLEN, *SHEEZUS* **GRADE: C+**

Lily Allen has always been accused of being a pop-music contradiction, a tart who wields the same genre clichés she mocks. Since releasing her 2006 debut Alright, Still, that's been the draw: Allen's the antithesis of everything popular, even though she is popular. Some stars prefer to keep their mouths shut, standing quietly on elevators, but not this one. Lily is forthright and unfiltered, and yet, there's still something elusive about this Londoner. Is she panning or praising her female contemporaries on that Sheezus title track? Does she hate Beyoncé? Who hates Beyoncé? Where's the Beygency?! It's refreshing to hear Lily leave a little to the imagination (not much, though – she loves to tell you about her period). Her ambiguity incites an inner dialogue – "What does Lily really think?" – that makes "Sheezus" an amusing tease track. True to her haughty persona, "Hard Out Here" bemoans that a girl can't catch a break. It's a fun little feminist anthem, and it's ludicrous that it's buried at the tail-end. Also spunky is "Our Time," a spirited moment of party liberation that breaks from Allen's perpetual grumblings on, well, just about everyone. Motherhood hasn't zapped Allen's lyrical zing, but musically, too many of these songs dawdle into nothingness. Despite previously mentioned standouts, how something so inconsistently throwaway was produced by top-tier pop producer Greg Kurstin is mind-boggling. When it comes down to it, Sheezus needs a Jesus.

ALSO OUT:

NATALIE MERCHANT, *NATALIE MERCHANT*

Natalie Merchant hasn't released original music since Motherland. That's 13 years without the melancholic distress of the songwriter's self-scribed musings. With this self-titled release, Merchant makes up for lost time, recording relentlessly funereal reflections on grief, addiction and global catastrophe that are satisfyingly grim. "The End" is a string-infused war ballad, "Lulu" beautifully tributes late film star Louise Brooks, and "Ladybird" is Merchant at her '90s girl-pop zenith. Welcome back, bleakness.

DISCLOSURE, *SETTLE*

When a fire starts to burn, you put it out ... right? If you're the UK duo who snatched a Grammy nod for your polished dance debut, Settle, though, you let it burn. Still charting with "Latch," a new deluxe edition offers more from the house-beat builders behind the Jessie Ware-assisted "Confess to Me" and the drum-heavy "You & Me." Supplementing the original release are "Together," a funky Prince-era jam, and a second version of "F for You" with, of all people, Mary J. Blige, who throws down and takes you to Babylon.

Chris Azzopardi is the editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBT wire service.

caring for your pet

By Chelsea Faircloth, DVM

Tick season is here

In Dauphin County, the most prevalent tick-borne disease plaguing our canine companions is Lyme disease. You may have heard of this disease but are unsure of the transmission and clinical signs.

Here are some facts about canine Lyme disease (aka Borreliosis):

- Lyme disease is transmitted by the deer tick (often referred to as the black-legged tick) and the western black-legged tick.
- Many dogs infected with Borrelia burgdorferi (the bacteria responsible for Lyme disease) will remain subclinical (will not show any signs or symptoms of disease).
- Symptoms in infected dogs may come and go and can mimic other health conditions.
- Clinical cases vary from mild to severe with severe cases sometimes resulting in kidney failure and death.
- Clinical signs may include: spontaneous and shifting leg lameness, loss of appetite, depression, reluctance to move and/or fatigue.
- Many veterinary clinics have the ability to test for Lyme disease in-house. This test is recommended annually and six months after any known tick exposure.

Here are some tips to prevent Lyme disease in your dog:

- Use tick prevention year-round! Ticks can thrive at 35 degrees Fahrenheit and higher. Ask your veterinarian which tick prevention products he or she recommends.
- There is an approved vaccine for Lyme disease. Remember that vaccination does not necessarily prevent disease, but can lessen the severity of clinical signs. Discuss this vaccine with your veterinarian.
- Check your dog frequently for ticks. This can be difficult if his/her coat is dark in color. Deer ticks are only a few millimeters in size.

If your dog tests positive for Lyme disease, follow your veterinarian's advice regarding further diagnostics and/or treatment. Although Lyme disease is not considered curable, it is treatable in many cases.

Noah's Ark Veterinary Center, 6325 Chelton Ave., Harrisburg, PA 17112, (717)652-5923

Lancaster Events

- ***Whoopie Pie of the Month- July 2014***

Hershey Farm Restaurant & Inn, July 1-July 31, All Day Event
S'more Whoopie and Graham cracker cake with whipped marshmallow filling and chocolate drizzle.

- ***Lancaster County Hot Air Balloon Rides in Amish Country***

U.S. Hot Air Balloon Team, Through Feb. 28, 2015, Bird in Hand
Take an amazing journey in a hot air balloon over beautiful Lancaster County. Interact with the crew, help assemble the balloon. Bring your camera. There are opportunities to photograph the rural sites of Intercourse, New Holland, Strasburg, Ephrata, and the Reading skyline. From beginning to end plan on spending 2 ½ to 3 hours with us. Sunrise and Sunset Flights Available. Info: 1-800-763-5987

York Events

- ***2nd Annual Susquehanna Gateway Flatwater Challenge***

Indian Steps Museum, July 19, 8:30 a.m. - 10 p.m., Airville
Canoe and kayak race open to all skill levels ages 12 and up featuring 3 race divisions. Plan to stay and enjoy Indian Steps Stomp Music Fest, 1-9 p.m. featuring local professional music on the lawn. www.SusquehannaHeritage.org

- ***2014 Yorkfest Fine Arts Festival***

200 W Market St, August 22
Yorkfest features a weekend of approximately 100 select fine artists from all around the country, a juried exhibition at YorkArts, free family entertainment and hands-on arts activities, a free community jazz concert in the Capitol Theatre on Saturday night, Chalk Walk, youth art and literary awards, walking tours of the York Murals, tours and demonstrations at the Colonial Court House Complex, and much more! www.yorkcity.org/yorkfest

Bringing Equality to the South

HRC Devotes $8.5 Million Campaign to Mississippi, Alabama and Arkansas

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) announced Project One America (POA), a comprehensive campaign to dramatically expand LGBT equality in the South through permanent campaigns in Mississippi, Alabama and Arkansas. This substantial and lasting initiative—with a three year budget of $8.5 million and a dedicated staff of 20—is the largest coordinated campaign for LGBT equality in the history of the South.

"Right now, this country is deeply divided into two Americas—one where LGBT equality is nearly a reality and the other where LGBT people lack the most fundamental measures of equal citizenship. Project One America is an unparalleled effort to close that gap, and it opens up a bold, new chapter in the LGBT civil rights movement of this generation. In this grand struggle for equality, we can't write off anyone, anywhere," said HRC President and Arkansas native Chad Griffin.

Project One America is the very first campaign of its kind to work exclusively on LGBT equality in Mississippi, Alabama and Arkansas—where there are no non-discrimination protections for LGBT people at the state or local level in employment, housing or public accommodations, and where each state's constitution expressly prohibits marriage equality.

"Despite the legal landscape, it's long past time that the country stopped treating the South like the 'finish line' for equality. HRC has more than 57,000 members and supporters in these states, and there are millions more fair-mined people ready to stand on the right side of history," Griffin said.

Griffin will be visiting Mississippi, Alabama and Arkansas on May 5th-7th as part of a three-state tour of press and public events to kick off Project One America.

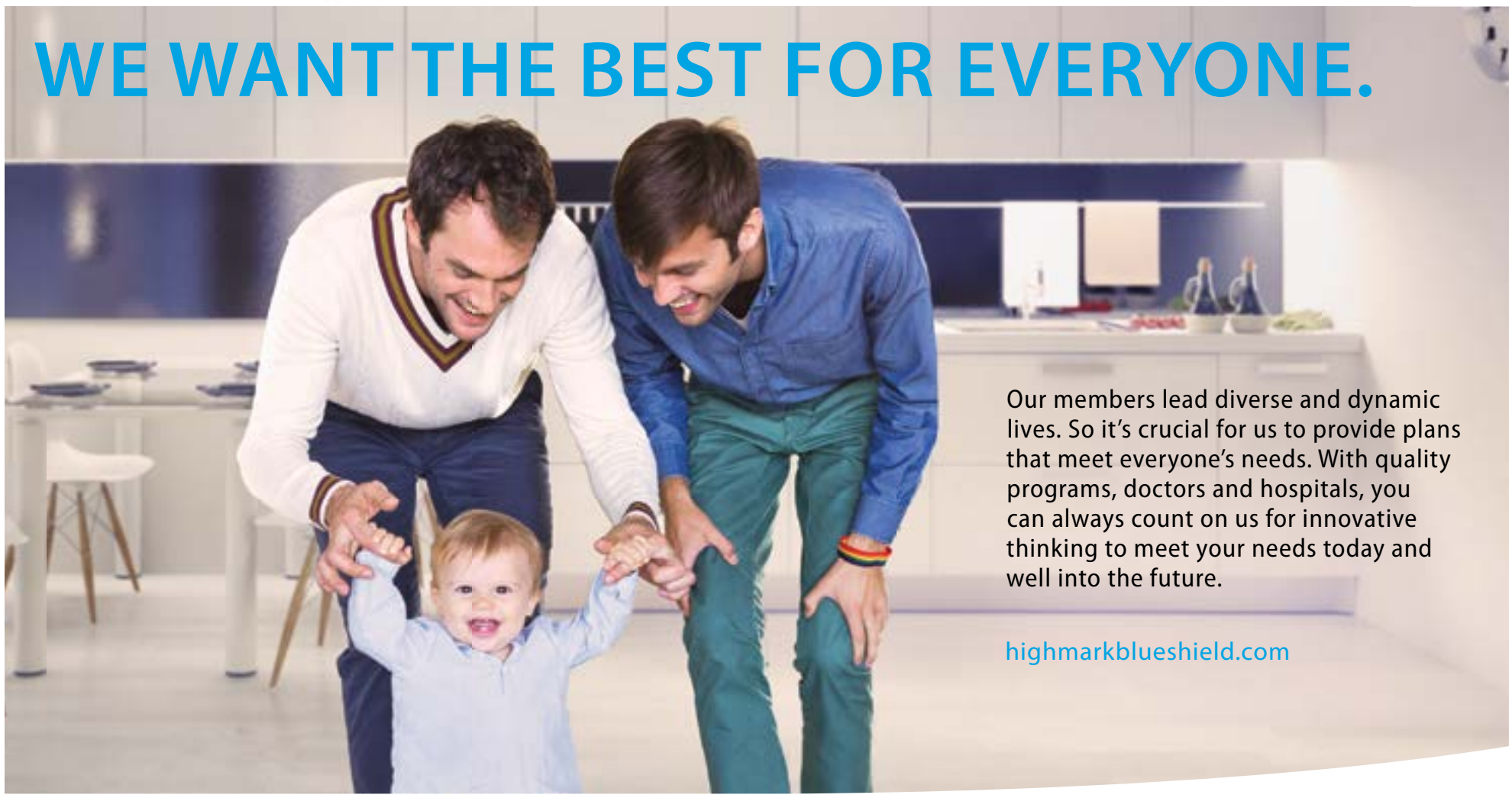
Project One America will focus on making progress on three fronts—changing hearts and minds, advancing enduring legal protections, and building more inclusive institutions for LGBT people from the church pew to the workplace. HRC Mississippi, HRC Alabama and HRC Arkansas will be anchored by full-time local staff and dedicated in-state office space to guarantee a round-the-clock effort.

The effort will be led nationally by Brad Clark, a long-time LGBT advocate with a consistent record of success at statewide LGBT equality organizations in Iowa and Colorado. Its deputy director will be Karin Quimby, a veteran of HRC's Field work in the South.

continued on page 34

"In this grand struggle for equality, we can't write off anyone, anywhere."

- HRC President and Arkansas native Chad Griffin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Do You Feel Obligated to Marry?

making sense of life

By Dr. Terry Drew Karanen

To all my unmarried gay and lesbian readers: How many people have asked you when you're getting married since same sex marriage are now legal in Pennsylvania? Like me, I'm sure you were ecstatic to hear same sex couples are now permitted to marry in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It's been a long time coming as we all know. I remember my first meetings in Pittsburgh in 1996 with the Pennsylvanian Coalition for the Right to Marry. We often felt we were fighting a losing battle, but perseverance paid off!

Does this mean all gay and lesbian couples should get married? This individual and very personal decision has been complicated for many of us by the assumptions of our friends and families – both gay and straight – that we will definitely run, not walk, to our local county registrar to obtain our marriage license. In fact, not to do so can be seen by some as belittling the massive efforts that have been made over the past few decades. This can cause a great deal of tension between friends and communities, not to mention the couple themselves.

We have freedom of choice, but not of consequence. A "consequence" is not necessarily a negative situation. For some same sex couples the consequence is a legal acknowledgment of a long-term, loving, committed relationship. But, for others more casually involved in coupling it may mean taking a hard look at the relationship or even the basic reasons for being together.

In other words, we gay men and lesbians in Pennsylvania now have the equality for which we have fought long and hard. That means we now have exactly the same decisions to make as our straight siblings, cousins and friends in any other state of the Union: Do we want to be married? Not can we, but should we? Having the legal right to do something does not mean we are obligated to take advantage of that right. For example, I have the right to own a gun. I don't and that is my personal decision.

My mother used to tell my sister (with regard to her choice of attire), "Just because it fits doesn't necessarily mean you should wear it." And, just because same sex couples can now be legally recognized in Pennsylvania as a couple doesn't mean that they necessarily should. If two people are committed to being and staying together – for love or whatever other reason – then marriage might be appropriate. But many straight couples have that kind of commitment and have chosen for years not to legally marry. Why? Do they not really love one another? Are they looking for a future, quick exit from the relationship without the messiness and financial costs of a divorce?

In many cases the disadvantages of marrying outweigh the need to legally consecrate a loving relationship. The best example of that is some seniors who are lovingly coupled and remain unmarried because getting married would severely impact their income, e.g., the widow who remarries and subsequently loses her late husband's pension. This situation may not ring true for all same sex couples, but the romance of our new freedom can cloud our reasoning.

Our relationships did not change on May 20, 2014. The relationship you had on May 19th is the same relationship you woke up to on May 21st. Same sex couples who don't have a stable relationship now and legally marry just because it's now legal to do so in Pennsylvania have about as much chance of saving the relationship as the straight couple who decides what their failing marriage needs to survive is a baby. Wrong choice!

The rest of this issue of *Central Voice* is probably full of countless articles about and pictures of joyous couples getting married after having been together for decades. I think it's great that we can now have our relationships legally recognized in the commonwealth. I'm not attempting to be the wet blanket at the party, but I am very concerned that some of us have been fighting for this right as second-class citizens for so long that we feel obligated or compelled to legally marry now – even if it isn't the right thing for us or our partners.

ALL Pennsylvanians now have the legal right to marry the partner with whom they want to spend the rest of their lives. I encourage anyone to take that step if it is the right thing for you to do. Just remember the freedom to do something does not equate to being obligated to do so.

Terry Drew Karanen is an author, keynote speaker, licensed social worker and an ordained minister. He can be reached at: terry@terrydrewkaranen.com

Gay Military Moms Honored at White House

First Lady Michelle Obama publically recognized the sacrifices of gay military spouses May 12 at the White House Mothers' Day Tea. She acknowledged the sacrifices of

American Military Partner Association (AMPA) members 1LT Judith Chedville of the Texas Army National Guard, and her wife Alicia Butler, who's story made national headlines late last year when the Texas National Guard refused to process her for military benefits as a same-gender spouse. The Texas National Guard ultimately complied. In her speech, the Michelle Obama pointed out that 1LT Chedville originally left active duty in 2004 because she could no longer serve in good conscience under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) and returned to service after it's repeal.

"When President Obama announced the repeal of DADT, I cried," said 1LT Judith Chedville. "It was such a great moment of validation and affirmation. To be recognized by the First Lady brought me back to that feeling. It was a wonderful day."

Alicia Butler, left, and Judith Chedville with their daughter.

Alder Health knows that visiting a provider can be stressful for anyone, but for some of us, that feeling can be magnified because of fear of discrimination or being misunderstood. We offer LGBT-focused mental health services in both Harrisburg and Lancaster.

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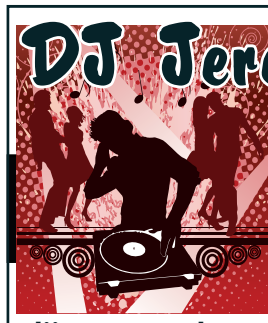

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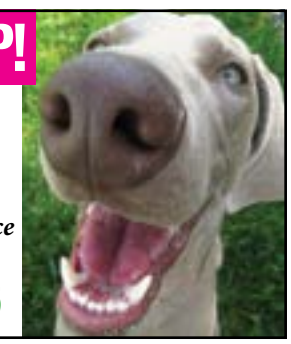

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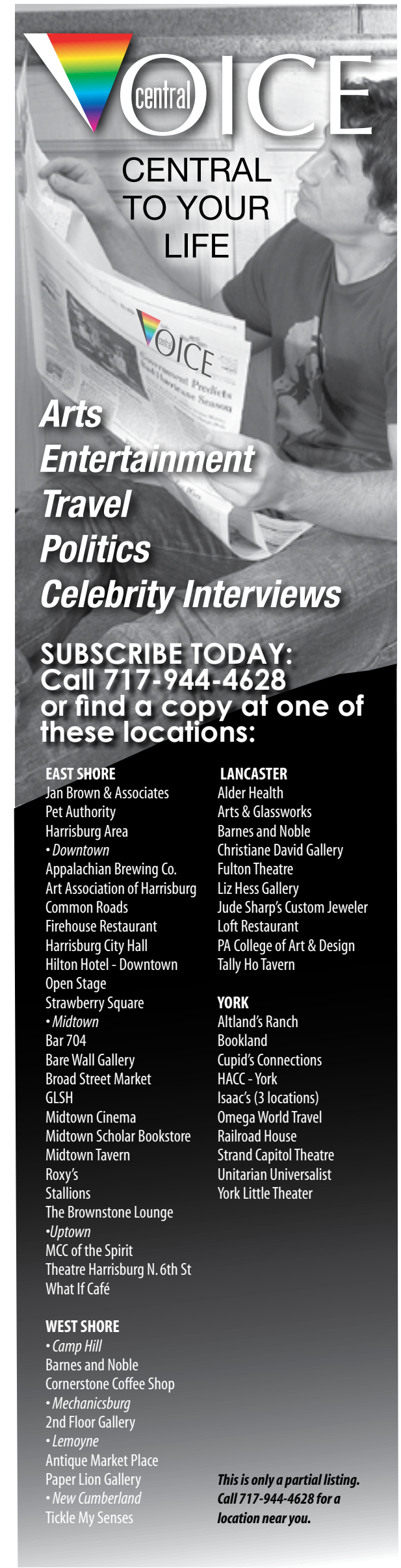

LGBT community center coalition

By Louie Marven
Executive Director
LGBT Community Center Coalition of Central PA

LGBT Community Center: Meeting Region's Training Needs

When I speak with people in the community about LGBT Center programming, my sense is that some programs are more easily imagined than others. Programs that involve a group of people meeting at the center for a social, educational, or cultural purpose—Common Roads, Aging with Pride, Women's Group, Open Mic Night—evoke images of communities being built by gathering in a physical space on a regular occurrence. I believe that one equally important effort is that of training our region how to serve LGBT clients in a culturally competent manner.

We have a long history of doing this work. When Common Roads was a standalone organization, staff and volunteers developed training programs for school, college, and social service agency staff to understand how to create a safe space for LGBT students. This work continued when the center merged with Common Roads in 2009, and continues to represent the bulk of the center's training efforts.

With the development of our Aging with Pride initiative, this template of creating meeting space for people of a particular population while educating the provider network about serving this community was duplicated. We have been able to provide training in settings like senior centers and social worker networks, and most recently have worked with AARP and the LGBT Elder Initiative to offer training through local county LINK networks.

Many advocacy and direct service organizations in our region provide training as well, and the need to work together to share resources and other information has presented itself. To that end, we've decided to work together to bolster each other's efforts. In December, a group of community partners gathered at the LGBT center to form an LGBT Trainers Cohort for the purposes of sharing resources, referrals, and stories from the field. This effort will help us all to ensure that requests for training find the appropriate trainer, and that those of us going out into the field have some common messaging and the most current information.

The cohort meets quarterly at the LGBT center to touch base and discuss a different element of training. In March, we shared challenges and successes in communicating "LGBT 101"—or some of the basic terminology and concepts relevant to our training efforts. We recognized that as language evolves, so should our strategies in delivering education about this language. In June, we took turns facilitating activities related to these key concepts, giving feedback and taking notes on how we might replicate the good work of our colleagues in our training settings.

The group consists of staff and volunteers from the LGBT center (including leaders from Silent Witness Peacekeepers Alliance), Alder Health Services, Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape, Planned Parenthood Keystone, Millersville University, and Central Penn College. Others who facilitate training on LGBT topics in central Pennsylvania may contact me at lmarven@centralpalgbtcenter.org to inquire about joining the cohort.

The mission of the LGBT Center of Central PA is to create common ground for the LGBT community and allies in central Pennsylvania by providing services through educational, cultural, and community activities that foster wholeness.

Should Cops Have Access to Your Grindr?

By Karl Frisch

In a roundabout way, that's a question the Supreme Court is considering today. Here are the details and some images you can share to raise awareness:

The Supreme Court is hearing cases this week that could allow cops to look at everything on your cell phone without a warrant - seriously. The highest Court in the land could give cops free reign to look at your photos, text messages, emails, calendar, phone logs, dating apps, Facebook account, and much, much more. That's why Supreme Court observers are calling *Riley v. California* and *United States v. Wurie* the Court cases everyone with a cell phone should be watching.

Karl Frisch is a Democratic Strategist and Syndicated Columnist. KarlFrisch.com

Moscow Gay Rights

Gay rights activists held rainbow flags during their protest in central Moscow on May 31. Riot police arrested two women as a small group of gay rights activists tried to stage a rally in central Moscow dedicated to Conchita Wurst, the bearded Austrian transvestite who won this year's Eurovision song contest.

Chamber on the move

By Bill Krenz

Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce

Why Have an LGBT Chamber of Commerce?

Deb McClain, chamber president and CEO, met Jenn T. Grace, when she was the executive director of Connecticut's LGBT Chamber of Commerce (CABO) four years ago. Grace is currently CABO vice president and an accomplished entrepreneur, self proclaimed marketing guru and advocate for the LGBT business-equality movement.

Grace has provided incredible insight into why an LGBT chamber is important to our community. She has commented, "In day-to-day interactions with people I've come to find that many do not know what a chamber of commerce is or what a chamber of commerce does." She went on to say, "At the time I can remember my mom asking me what a chamber was and I found it difficult to fully explain to her".

So, what is a chamber of commerce?

Grace describes it as a local organization of businesses whose goal is to further the interests of businesses. Business owners in towns and cities form these local societies to advocate on behalf of the business community. Now take that definition and put LGBT in front of businesses and you have an LGBT chamber of commerce - LGBT and allied businesses whose goal is to further their collective business interests.

Grace goes on to say that allied businesses are not necessarily owned by someone who is a lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, but by someone who is supportive of our LGBT community. So why should a business owner who is not gay care about a local LGBT chamber? An LGBT chamber operates like the Harrisburg Regional, York, Lancaster and other regional chambers but with a specific focus on helping LGBT business owners and consumer of their products reach out to the LGBT market.

There is a level of camaraderie that is hard to explain within the Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. Grace says, "Members are about the genuine success of their fellow members and are there to help each other to be better, stronger and advance the economic vitality of the LGBT community as a whole.'

Future events:

July 9 - Hetrick, Bitner, Geigle and Smith Funeral Homes host the chamber at their Linglestown Road location. They're planning a themed barbeque picnic, *weather permitting.*

July 26 - Look for the chamber stand during Pride Festival of Central PA in Hbg.

Aug. 13 - Members 1st Federal Credit Union welcomes us back to their Hempstead Road Branch in Lancaster.

Past events:

May 14 - Heidi Duckworth and Wells Fargo Advisors hosted a mixer at the exquisite Hamilton Club, the chamber's first event in Lancaster this year.

June 11 - The American Red Cross hosted the chamber membership at their facility in Harrisburg.

June 21 - The chamber supported Lancaster Pride.

Please check the chamber's website (www.cpglcc.org) regularly for registration information for all events, a list of future events, and a listing of member businesses.

Weekend in Philadelphia

OUT OF TOWN

by Andrew Collins

Summer is a wonderful time to visit vibrant Philadelphia *(visitphilly.com/c/gay)*, home to some of the most important and fascinating art museums and historic attractions in the country, not to mention a superb – even a bit underrated – restaurant scene and a rich selection of stylish hotels. It's a lovely time of year to stroll around Independence National Historical Park, admiring the buildings in which the founding fathers conceived of the United States, and to wander through Fairmount Park, with its groomed paths meandering along the Schuylkill River. Here's a blueprint for spending a perfect weekend in the City of Brotherly Love.

FRIDAY EVENING:

On your first night, kick things off with a memorable meal. In Philadelphia, you'll find a heady mix of international culinary influences, a dedication on the part of many chefs to sustainable and locally sourced ingredients, and a thriving craft-cocktail and beer scene. Chef and restaurant partners (in business and in life) Marcie Turney and Valerie Safran have made an indelible mark on Philadelphia by opening several outstanding eateries, all of them highly popular with the LGBT community – you might even dine at one of their restaurants each night of your visit, or consider making a progressive dinner one evening by sampling one or two items at a few different spots.

Among the Turney-Safran venues, consider cozy and romantic Little Nonna's *(littlenonnas.com)* for pan-seared potato gnocchi, grilled pork chop pizzaiola, and other classic Italian dishes; Barbuzzo *(barbuzzo.com)* for beautifully prepared Mediterranean tapas, cured-meat and cheese plates, and pizzas; or Jamonera *(jamonerarestaurant.com)* for traditional Spanish tapas.

SATURDAY:

Start the day with a leisurely stroll around the City Center – well worth a visit is Rittenhouse Square Park. City-planning guru Jane Jacobs called this tiny patch of paradise the most successful urban park in the United States; indeed, Rittenhouse Square is picturesque, socially diverse, highly safe and largely unsullied by post-World War II architecture. Off the Square's southeast corner is the prestigious Curtis Institute of Music, where Samuel Barber, Leonard Bernstein and Ned Rorem studied, as well as the Philadelphia Art Alliance, which presents outstanding exhibits and art shows.

Stop by La Colombe Torrefaction *(lacolombe.com)* for an expertly brewed espresso, or if you're looking for a proper brunch, nearby Honey's Sit 'N Eat *(honeyssitneat.com)* is a terrific option (try the "Honey Cristo": challah French toast stuffed with Lancaster County double-smoked ham and Swiss, and topped with two sunny eggs).

Depending on how much you've eaten during your morning stroll, in the early afternoon, make your way northeast about a mile from Rittenhouse Square to visit the famed and cavernous Reading Terminal Market *(readingterminalmarket.org)*, which dates back to 1892 and contains more than 80 stalls carrying everything from local seafood to Pennsylvania Dutch specialties to decadent baked goods and homemade fudge.

Even if you're not a big history buff, you can't visit Philadelphia and not soak up at least a whiff or two of the city's amazingly rich heritage. The Old City neighborhood, just a 15-minute walk east of Reading Terminal Market, contains the bulk of the city's pre-1800s attractions, most them centered around Independence National Historical Park, which celebrates the very birth of our nation. Most famous is the Liberty Bell Pavilion, site of America's beloved and cracked 2,000-pound bell. Although commonly thought to have played a significant role in Colonial history, the Liberty Bell actually rose to prominence during the 1830s as a symbol of the movement to abolish slavery.

Nearby Independence Hall is where the Second Continental Congress met in 1775, the Declaration of Independence was adopted in 1776, the Articles of Confederation were signed in 1778, and the Constitution was adopted in 1787. It was also the site of the city's first major civil rights

demonstrations (which included the concerns of lesbians and gays). The list of important sights within the park goes on and on – you could easily spend a full day here.

SATURDAY EVENING

As the dinner hour approaches, book a table at one of the restaurants operated by another of Philadelphia's culinary stars, local celeb chef Stephen Starr *(starr-restaurant.com)*. It's not easy to choose among the more than a dozen Starr eateries around the city, but two standouts include Jones *(jones-restaurant.com)*, which is right by Independence Hall and serves eclectic Southern- and Caribbean-inspired dishes like fried chicken and waffles, and spicy jambalaya; or, around the corner, snazzy Talula's Garden *(talulasgarden.com)*, which specializes in artfully plated contemporary American fare, such as filet of beef with foie gras-brown butter and seared local brook trout with garlic-braised guanciale, snap peas and fiddlehead ferns.

The city's compact gay district, nicknamed the Gayborhood, is where you'll want to go if you're up for some bar-hopping and clubbing. Favorite gay nightspots include long-running but handsomely revamped Woody's *(woodysbar.com)*, a youthful video and dance bar that's quite crowded every night of the week. The three-story Voyeur Nightclub *(voyeurnightclub.com)* is the Gayborhood's go-to for dancing into the wee hours (it's open till a little after 3 a.m.), while Tavern on Camac *(tavernoncamac.com)* is a charming gay piano bar with a cozy restaurant in the basement.

Other friendly options in the area include U Bar (ubarphilly.com), an attractive spot with exposed-brick walls and warm lighting; trendy but friendly Knock Bar and Restaurant *(knockphilly.com)*, a great option both for dining and cocktails; ICandy *(clubicandy.com)*, which has an inviting roof deck and hot dancers; and the Venture Inn *(viphilly.com)*, the oldest gay bar in town, set in a historic tavern.

SUNDAY:

Now that you've become acquainted with Philly's rich history, head to two or three of the city's renowned art museums on Sunday. But first, kick off your adventure with brunch at wonderful Sabrina's Café *(sabrinascafe.com)*, near the Parkway Museums District. Fave morning dishes include huevos rancheros with smoky chorizo sausage and blue-corn tortillas, and house-made granola with Greek yogurt and berries.

If you have time for just one museum, make it the Barnes Foundation, an internationally acclaimed collection assembled by the late chemist Albert Barnes and moved from his suburban Philadelphia mansion into a stunning contemporary exhibit space in 2012. The collection is rather idiosyncratic, with works from a range of cultures, but there's a particular emphasis on Impressionist and Modernist artists, especially Renoir, Cezanne, Matisse, and the lesser-known (and gay) Pennsylvania painter Charles Demuth. Give yourself at least a couple of hours to tour this singular museum.

If possible, also try to stop by the famed Rodin Museum, which contains the largest collection of the eponymous artist's sculptures outside Paris, and the Philadelphia Museum of Art, which sits within a dramatic Greek Revival building amid 10 landscaped acres. Standouts in the permanent collection include contemporary masterpieces by Picasso, Braque, and Matisse as well as works by a number of post-World War II artists.

The outstanding Marcel Duchamp collection includes renditions of his Nude Descending a Staircase. Check out the fine collection of photos and paintings by gay artist Thomas Eakins of young, virile men crewing and boating on the nearby Schuylkill River.

And that's just scratching the surface. The museum is adjacent to lushly landscaped Fairmount Park, which straddles the Schuylkill River and comprises nearly 9,000 acres of picturesque gardens, walkways and biking and bridle paths, plus about a dozen historic (mostly Colonial) mansions, which are open to the public.

SUNDAY EVENING:

Philadelphia has some outstanding ethnic dining options. For stellar Mexico City-inspired fare, try Distrito *(philadelphia.distritorestaurant.com)*, which serves the creative cuisine of talented chef Jose Garces. Or for delish Asian fare, head to informal Cheu Noodle Bar *(cheunoodlebar.com)*, an inventive Gayborhood favorite for brisket ramen, coconut curry and barbecue pig tails with turnip kimchi.

- ***Where to Stay in Philadelphia***

The city has a terrific mix of historic and stylish, design-driven hotels, with quite a few options within easy walking distance of Gayborhood bars and restaurants. Discerning fans of the arts favor the refined Four Seasons Philadelphia *(fourseasons.com/philadelphia)*, on Logan Square, just a couple of blocks from the Barnes Foundation and other top museums. Request a room overlooking the square, and be sure to enjoy cocktails or a light bite in the casually sophisticated Lounge, or dinner in the Fountain Restaurant, which serves nonpareil French food. Another draw here is the hotel's soothing day spa.

Near stately Rittenhouse Square, the hip and modish Radisson Blu Warwick *(radissonblu.com/hotel-philadelphia)* occupies a marvelously transformed historic hotel with artfully designed rooms and cushy beds; Tavern 17, off the mod lobby, is a fun spot to meet friends for drinks or dinner, and cozy and stylish Stir *(stirphilly.com)* gay neighborhood bar is across the street. One of the largest and most inviting urban gay-owned hotels in the country, the reasonably priced Alexander Inn (alexanderinn.com) has 48 warmly appointed rooms and is steps from local bars.

Gay-favored Kimpton hotels operates the dapper Hotel Palomar *(hotelpalomar-philadelphia.com)*, also close to the Gayborhood, as well as the sleek Hotel Monaco *(monaco-philadelphia.com)*, which is in Old City close to Independence Hall – a nice alternative if you'd prefer to be near the city's most historic attractions. Other LGBT-popular lodging gems include the Loews Philadelphia *(loewshotels.com/Philadelphia-Hotel),* which occupies the handsome 1930s PSFS Building; and the Hyatt at Bellevue *(philadelphia.bellevue.hyatt.com)*, a 172-room grande dame on the legendary Avenue of the Arts.

Andrew Collins produces the website GayTravel.About.com and writes about travel for a variety of LGBT and mainstream publications.

Light Up Our Lives: Debby Boone Comes Out as Ally

Well, perhaps it wasn't a secret to readers of the *National Enquirer,* but singer Debby Boone of "You Light Up My Life" fame, daughter of ultra-conservative crooner Pat Boone, actually knows and likes gay people! Gasp! She even walked the red carpet at the last GLAAD Media Awards in Los Angeles.

In June 2012, the *National Enquirer* "exposed Debby Boone's 'gay secret'":

Debby's hiding a sin-sational secret from her ultra-conservative father Pat—her preacher husband Gabriel Ferrer officiates at gay weddings!

Boone

While 78-year-old Pat Boone claims he is not homophobic, the pop legend has been extremely outspoken about his opposition to gay marriage. And dutiful Debby is doing everything in her power to prevent her father from finding out that her hubby of 32 years marries homosexual couples, say sources.

"While Debby and Gabriel are religious and true to their faith, they both believe that gay couples should have the same civil rights as married couples," revealed an insider. ...

"Debby wishes Pat would change his views and be more accepting of equal rights for gays, but she knows it won't happen," said the source. "So in order to maintain a good relationship, she keeps the peace by not letting him in on their secret."

Well, that secret's out now! Filmmakers Renee Sotile and Mary Jo Godges interviewed Boone for Frontiers. "I'm really happy to be here in support of GLAAD, because I am one of the people that has made the transition from an old way of thinking to a new one. And I think that's really the crux of what GLAAD is all about," she said.

Boone said "a lot of things" helped change her mind. "I have really good friends and family members that have changed my mind. And the couple that we're with tonight is a lesbian couple who attended the church where my husband was associate rector.

"And it's getting to know people. A lot of gay and lesbian people that I have come to know really well and think I just can't continue to reconcile what I've believed with what I know now. And it has really shifted the way I grew up thinking," Boone continued.

"And it was a tough transition, you know. And it is for a lot of people so I think I have compassion for both sides. People that are coming slowly into the future, you know, and starting to get it but you know, it's not about good and bad people. It's just about continuing to tell the truth and the truth will do the work."

Kevin D. Williamson

By D'Anne Witkowski

Whooo-oooo-whooo-oooo! It's the gender police! Chief Inspector Kevin D. Williamson has put a warrant out for Laverne Cox because she isn't taking the Cox part of her name literally enough.

Williamson has laid out his case against Cox in a May 30 diatribe on National Review Online titled, penisishly, "Laverne Cox Is Not a Woman."

As you know, Cox, who stars as Sophia Burset on "Orange is the New Black" appeared on the June 9, 2014 cover of *Time* magazine next to the headline, "The transgender tipping point."

Williamson will simply not stand for this.

"Cox, a fine actor, has become a spokesman — no doubt he would object to the term — for trans people," Williamson writes.

Note Williamson's flagrant use of the male pronoun, a fine way to tell a trans person, "I completely reject your existence and your right to your own identity" and also, "Fuck you."

In other words, "sex" is real, "gender" is some kind of liberal psychobabble. So if you're born with a penis, you're a man. End of story. Amen.

And, yes, I'm sure Cox would object to the term "spokesman," you asshole, since she's a woman. Also Cox has been clear in talking about her experience that every transgender person's story is different, so she's hardly claiming to be the end all be all of trans folks.

According to Williamson, it all comes down to semantics.

"The infinite malleability of the postmodern idea of 'gender,' as opposed to the stubborn concreteness of sex, is precisely the reason the concept was invented," he writes. "For all of the high-academic theory attached to the question, it is simply a mystical exercise in rearranging words to rearrange reality."

In other words, "sex" is real, "gender" is some kind of liberal psychobabble. So if you're born with a penis, you're a man. End of story. Amen.

Cox has elected not to talk publically about her genitals, as it's her business. But some people simply don't know what to do with not knowing. It's the classic Schrödinger's penis experiment. If you don't know whether or not she has a penis, how do you know whether or not she's a he?

Williamson skirts the issue by declaring, "Regardless of the question of whether he has had his genitals amputated, Cox is not a woman, but an effigy of a woman." In other words, Cox is pretend. A department store dummy. A man playing dress up.

And let's talk about the use of the word "amputated" here. It's clear Williamson has no tolerance for ambiguity and, indeed, rejects any and all ambiguity in the realm of sex and gender, but a man does not magically become a woman via getting his penis chopped off. Only the willfully ignorant think of a so-called "sex change operation" this way.

Just like only the willfully ignorant argue that a man or woman must have "the right" genitals in order to identify as a man or a woman. It's a shitty position to put trans folks in. The prevailing attitude is if a woman has a penis, then she's not really a woman. But if a woman used to have a penis, then she's a man who chopped off his penis.

And if a penis is truly the mark of what makes a man a man, what of men who have lost their penises via car accidents or cancer or botched surgeries? Do they automatically become female?

Obviously not. And I suspect Williamson would agree and that he would also argue that men who lose their penises involuntarily are in no way similar to someone who elects to have gender reassignment surgery. Those people, he says, are sick.

He writes, "[T]o amputate healthy organs in the service of a delusional tendency is the moral equivalent of meeting a man who believes he is Jesus and inquiring as to whether his insurance plan covers crucifixion."

Zing! Translation: transgender people are just crazy!

If Williamson believes that the genitals you were born with hold the key to your sex, then there's no way for me to tell if he's really a man until he Snapchats me some penis pics.

D'Anne Witkowski has been gay for pay since 2003. She's a freelance writer and poet (believe it!). When she's not taking on the creeps of the world she reviews rock and roll shows in Detroit with her twin sister and teaches writing at the University of Michigan.

transgender column

By Jeanine Ruhsam
president of TransCentralPA

Transgender Cover Girl?

It is remarkable that *Time* graced its May 29, 2014, front cover with a transgender person- for the first time ever in that magazine's history. *Time's* cover article focuses on the ugly problem that Vice President Joe Biden addressed a year ago when he said, "discrimination against transgender people is the civil rights issue of our time." That Time should wait so long to do so is understandable, for according to many recent studies transgender people comprise but .3 to 1% of the American population.

That they chose Laverne Cox, a black transgender woman who plays the part of a black transgender woman in the popular TV series "Orange Is the New Black" to be that person is also remarkable.

Laverne Cox

It is not so easily understood why she was chosen as that person, for, as in the general public, black people make up about 13% of the transgender population, so she does not represent the larger majority of transgender Americans. However, because of the adverse effects of race, class, and gender, black transgender women suffer far more than the remainder. A recent survey in Los Angeles County, California revealed that 48% of black transwomen were sex workers and that nearly 100% of them were HIV positive. Laverne Cox, then, was selected because she epitomizes the contentious intersection of race, class and gender, both in her personal life and in the role she acts. She is remarkable because she transcended her beginnings as a poor, black, Southern gay boy to evolve into the well-spoken, bold and charismatic leader that she is today; her story is, indeed, a Cinderella story.

That the National Review should publish an article a day later titled "Laverne Cox Is Not a Woman"- as if to wipe Time's cover clear- is not remarkable. Rather than honestly questioning an opposing ideology, the article seeks instead to delegitimize Cox's identity in spite of a legal precedent that he willfully ignores.

On January 30, 2014, in a case involving discrimination against a teenage transgender girl which hinged on the legal interpretation of her gender identity, the Maine Supreme Court ruled that if she identified as a girl, then she was a girl. Recent scientific and medical studies back that decision up, and the research on this is plentiful, ongoing and overwhelmingly concludes that gender identity is as "real" as biologically manifested sex. In his diatribe, writer Kevin Williamson exemplifies the vehement, negative attitude that is responsible for the discrimination against transgender people that has truly horrific results (see the report on the National Transgender discrimination Survey here: www.thetaskforce.org/downloads/reports/reports/ntds_full.pdf). Williamson's argument hardly deserves responding to on its merits, for all its points- such as her identity- are easily refuted; rather, we need to ask the larger question: what underlies such destructive, angry, discriminatory behavior?

Essentially, it is because the "Far Right" that Williamson represents- and writes for as the means by which he puts bread on his table- is afraid. They are afraid because their assumed position on top of the power hierarchy is threatened. Their claim to that exalted place lies solely in their ability to maintain a cultural hegemony that is built on archaic notions of tradition and morality. As historical scholar Michael Kammen noted, "Traditions are commonly relied upon by those who possess the power to achieve an illusion of social consensus. Such people invoke the legitimacy of an artificially constructed past in order to buttress presentist assumptions and the authority of a regime."

The tide of progress is sweeping their tenacious grasp on our culture's sense of equity and fairness away. On May 20, 2014, Judge John Jones III- appointed by President George Bush- noted in his opinion striking down the law that prohibited same sex marriage in our Commonwealth that, "past tradition [cannot] trump the bedrock constitutional guarantees of due process and equal protection." He went on to deliver what will be the epithet on Williamson's and his ilk's headstones: "We are a better people than what these laws represent, and it is time to discard them into the ash heap of history."

For hundreds of years LGBT people have been forced through cultural mores and law to exist on the margins of Western society, simply because they challenge the dominant ideology based upon hetero-normative concepts of tradition and morality. Hetero-normativity is the set of cultural practices that hierarchically categorizes the two genders, insists that gender reflects biological sex and posits norms for the maintenance of heterosexuality. Time magazine's recent cover story, "The Transgender Tipping Point," indicates that America is now ready to value the fundamental worth and recognize the unique identities of all her people, and in doing so, move those who have been relegated to the margins into the center.

Jeanine Ruhsam, eight-term President of TransCentralPA, holds an MA in American Studies and is currently pursuing her PhD. in the same field.

Arcila

Stallworth

Battle

Gonzalez

Pennsylvanians among 2014 Trans 100 List

• Charlene Arcila (Philadelphia) Co-Founder of the Philadelphia Trans Health Conference, longtime trans rights advocate [2014 Pennsylvania Youth Action Conference Plenary Speaker]
• A. Dionne Stallworth (Philadelphia) Founding member of Gender PAC, longtime advocate on housing and mental health issues
• Michael David Battle (Pittsburgh) Founder and Director of the Garden of Peace Project
• Shay(den) Gonzalez (Philadelphia) Director of Program Development at the Safe Spaces Project, former Youth of Color Coordinator at the National Youth Advocacy Coalition

Pennsylvanians selected for the 2013 Trans 100 List included:
• Allyson Robinson (Jermyn), Former Executive Director of OutServe-SLDN
• Che Gossett (Philadelphia), Author and AIDS activist, Program Assistant at the Leeway Foundation
• Jenny Boylan (Valley Forge), GLAAD Board Member, New York Times bestselling author
• Mara Keisling (Harrisburg), Founding Executive Director of the National Center for Transgender Equality
• Van Nguyen (Philadelphia), Steering Committee member of hotpot!

Michael Sam:

Hero for People with Two First Names?

By Central Voice

May 9, Michael Sam, a 6-foot-2, 260-pound defensive end, was selected by the St. Louis Rams with the 34th pick in the final round of the NFL draft. He kissed his boyfriend on ESPN. Below is a sampling of reactions.

"What Michael Sam is doing is totally unnatural. I mean...having two first names? C'mon!"

"How am I supposed to explain Michael Sam to my kids? I don't want them confused by his two first names lifestyle."

"No one should judge Michael Sam on being gay. I'm far more concerned he has two first names."

"Wait, everyone's talking about it cause he has two first names right?"

"How do I explain Michael Sam to my kids? A man with TWO first names?"

"Congratulations for being drafted to the NFL despite having the disadvantage of being born with two first names."

"I would never want a player like Michael Sam on my team. I can't stand people with two first names. Sorry."

"Michael Sam being drafted into the NFL is another triumph for people with two first names. Somewhere, George Michael is smiling."

Ally in the Academy

By Trum Simmons
Harrisburg Area Community College

Triggering Dissent

Trigger warning: this column may contain something that will bother you. Could be I will say something with which you strongly disagree, or perhaps you'll be upset by the issues I bring up.

Do I need to begin a column this way? I certainly hope not. Anyone reading an opinion piece should expect to be provoked from time to time. You also should expect to be stimulated, enlightened, amused and supported.

Trigger warnings have been an issue on college campuses for several years now, with calls for professors to alert students that the class may contain material that will upset them and get in the way of their learning.

These warnings began as attempts to reach students with PTSD and similar emotional issues from past traumas but quickly spread to include people who might be upset by any number of things.

Seven professors teaching courses in gender/sexuality studies and critical race studies, among others, recently published in Inside Higher Ed a fine statement against trigger warnings. I agree that such warnings are a terrible idea; however, they offer yet another opportunity to discuss what teaching and learning are all about.

Reading examples of courses where trigger warnings have been suggested, I thought about which courses I have taught over the past 42 years might apply.

At the top of the list would be Introduction to Gay and Lesbian Studies, although it would share first place with Banned Books. But then there are others: the literature courses Women Writers and Science Fiction and Fantasy, for example.

And then I realized that even my English Composition 101 and 102 would require trigger warnings. In fact, it was an English 102 class that got me in trouble at your friendly community college.

English Composition 102 focuses on writing exploratory and argument papers. It stresses academic research, and students learn how to write informed and thoughtful essays based on solid research—which leads to informed opinion.

The basic texts for this course contain essays by professional writers on educational and social issues who demonstrate thoughtful, informed and, yes, provocative opinion. An example might be Martin Luther King's Letter from Birmingham Jail or any one of Paul Krugman's pieces on economics in *The New York Times*. It could be a piece on issues like immigration reform or sexual assault on college campuses.

In addition, most professors include a novel to show how fiction deals with difficult issues. I've used *Brave New World, The Color Purple, Slaughterhouse Five* and many others through the years.

And when hotly debated issues come up in campus, local, state or national news, they offer an opportunity to discuss and write about those as well.

Thus it was the national furor over Eminem's music back in 2001 that caused my class and me significant heartburn when one young student was terribly offended and upset by our class discussions of the rapper's lyrics and what he was up to in his albums.

Both the home-schooled young girl and her mother wrote letters to the college president. The mother accused me of demeaning the title of professor in my attempt to indoctrinate her daughter and said I had harassed her in class. In her overheated rhetoric she said I had "raped" her daughter's mind.

The young girl (she was 16 and called attention to this fact, referring to herself as a minor) had spoken to me after class. I had told her she could have left class if she didn't want to participate in that discussion, as I have made clear to students over the years.

In her letter the student said it was my job to make sure no offensive material appeared in my course, and that she shouldn't have had to "skip" a class that she and the taxpayers had paid for. She wanted me to be either "censored" or "removed from the class."

Fortunately, the president and the college came down on the side of academic freedom and dismissed the complaint, although it took several weeks for this to be resolved and included many letters written on my behalf from my colleagues.

A crucial letter came from all the other students in that class, who wrote that they understood completely what that particular discussion was about and saw the educational value in it.

Over the years I have never issued trigger warnings, as every semester we began my classes by discussing what a college education is about. Students were well aware that we were going to consider some provocative material and that our discussions would be conducted in an open and civil manner.

I trust the readers of *Central Voice* know that this publication will continue to do the same. No trigger warnings needed here.

Trum Simmons is professor emeritus of English and advisor emeritus to HACC Allies.

Equality in the South *cont'd from page 25*

"HRC has been the largest national LGBT organizer in the South for decades, but LGBT people in these three states have told us in deeply personal terms that they want us to do more in their front yard," Clark said. "The opportunities for progress couldn't be clearer, and the need couldn't be greater. Mississippi has the single highest percentage of gay and lesbian couples raising children of any state in the country, for instance, but these parents are making do without essential legal protections or inclusion in their community."

In addition to the record levels of LGBT parenting (which are drawn from a 2010 Census analysis by the Williams Institute), HRC found both real need and profound opportunity for progress in a recently-completed survey conducted for HRC by Anzalone Liszt Grove—the largest survey of its kind on the needs, experiences and priorities of LGBT people in the South.

Findings include:

- In each of these three states, nearly 65 percent of LGBT people report suffering verbal abuse.
- Nearly one in five report experiencing physical violence because of their identity.
- A quarter report experiencing discrimination in employment or public accommodation.
- And one in four LGBT parents raising children in these states are total legal strangers to the children they raise.

HRC Mississippi, HRC Alabama and HRC Arkansas' nine launch goals are:

- Empower LGBT people (and straight allies) to come out.
- Raise the visibility of LGBT people and issues with the general public.
- Create safer environments for LGBT young people.
- Build partnerships with faith communities, communities of color, business communities, and conservatives.
- Create a more inclusive workplace for LGBT people
- Build support for enduring legal protections that ensure LGBT equality.
- Expand participation in HRC's Municipal Equality Index in these three states.
- Create a more inclusive healthcare environment for LGBT people
- Equip LGBT people and non-traditional allies as spokespeople.

A complete resource on Project One America's vision and motivating research is available here.

HRC will continue being the single largest national LGBT organizer in the South, with a decades-long track record of political and field campaigns and grassroots education efforts. One-third (500,000) of our 1.5 million members and supporters call the South their home and HRC is present at more than 50 LGBT pride events across the South each year.

HRC's field team is working across the South supporting legislative and electoral initiatives with direct grants to local and state groups and campaigns, funding for research and lobbying, as well as staff resources – including three full time employees dedicated to the South, and five other full time employees that spend a large portion of their time working in the region. Furthermore, the HRC Foundation's public education and outreach programs – including nationally recognized benchmark ratings like the Corporate Equality Index, Healthcare Equality Index and Municipal Equality Index – are present across the South helping to transform the institutions that affect the daily lives of LGBT people.

"Project One America is the perfect complement to HRC's existing political and field campaigns and grassroots education efforts—as well as our decades-old volunteer communities across the South," said Griffin. "That said, we're not undertaking this work because it will lead to quick, easy or sweeping victories. We're doing it because it is difficult. Folks in these three states shouldn't have to wait a single day longer for one, fully equal, America."

The Human Rights Campaign is America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equality. By inspiring and engaging all Americans, HRC strives to end discrimination against LGBT citizens and realize a nation that achieves fundamental fairness and equality for all.

PA Women's Health Caucus Unveils Agenda

Members of the legislature's bipartisan Women's Health Caucus have unveiled the second phase of their "Pennsylvania Agenda for Women's Health," which includes seven new pieces of legislation.

The caucus is co-chaired by Rep. Dan Frankel, D-Allegheny, and Sens. Judy Schwank, D-Berks, and Chuck McIlhinney, R-Bucks.

Frankel said, "I'm pleased that we are continuing to build on the original Pennsylvania Agenda for Women's Health to represent an even wider cross-section of issues and concerns facing women today. This is truly a comprehensive collection of bills based on what women want in regard to their own health and issues we can address to help women in the commonwealth live longer, healthier lives."

Schwank said, "The issues women face, and that are vital to us, our families and our communities, are as different from each other as our faces and lives are. These bills reflect real differences in women's lives. But we need to work on them together because success will improve all our lives."

McIlhinney said, "The purpose of social programs is to help families acquire the basic necessities of life until they can afford to meet these needs on their own, but current program guidelines can make reaching this goal difficult or even impossible when working families lose access to valuable benefits based on minor increases in income. Ensuring access to services such as health care, child care and nutritional assistance is an essential component of protecting the overall health and welfare of women in Pennsylvania."

The bills in phase two of the Pennsylvania Agenda for Women's Health include:

** Patient trust: H.B. 2303, to be introduced by Frankel; Senate version to be introduced by Sen. Mike Stack, D-Phila. This legislation would protect patients and providers from inappropriate, unscientific legislative intrusion into medical decision-making. It would protect the patient-provider relationship from statutory directives to practice care in a manner that is not in accordance with the standard of care.*

** Requiring a "cliff effect" study: S.R. 62, sponsored by McIlhinney, would require the nonpartisan Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study the "cliff effect," where working parents receive a minor increase in their income that makes them ineligible for various programs that allow them to work such as child care assistance, transportation, food stamps and free and reduced school lunches. The phenomenon often creates disincentives for poor families to achieve self-sufficiency.*

** Creating a task force on women veterans' health care: S.R. 262, sponsored by Sen. LeAnna Washington, D-Phila./Montgomery; House version to be introduced by Reps. Pamela DeLissio, D-Phila./Montgomery, and Kevin Schreiber, D-York. The task force would submit a report by Nov. 30 on health-care issues unique to women veterans, along with the quality of and access to care for women veterans.*

** Increasing Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) benefits: H.B. 2305, sponsored by Rep. Madeleine Dean, D-Montgomery. This legislation would increase the maximum TANF grant amount to 50 percent of the poverty guidelines published annually in the Federal Registry. Grants to families under the TANF program have not been increased in over 24 years, while inflation has dramatically eroded their buying power.*

** Exempt more earned income from TANF income limits: H.B. 2306, to be introduced by Rep. Michelle Brownlee, D-Phila.; Senate version to be introduced by Schwank. This legislation would raise the exemption from 50 percent to 75 percent to encourage people to work, acknowledging that low-income working families' expenses use up a large percentage of their take-home pay. At the current level, families in Pennsylvania often find themselves in roughly the same spot financially after they start working as they were before they started working, taking into account taxes, transportation, clothing and child care co-payments.*

** Ensuring fair pensions for widows of state and municipal employees: H.Bs. 2307 and 2308, to be introduced by Rep. Steve Santarsiero, D-Bucks; Senate versions to be introduced by Sen. Vincent Hughes, D-Phila./Montgomery. This legislation would require that a public employee obtain spousal consent for any benefit payment structure that does not provide at least a 50 percent survivor benefit to the employee's surviving spouse. The federal government and 27 states have a spousal consent requirement to protect spouses, usually women, from being blindsided after a spouse's death when they discover that they are not entitled to any of their deceased spouse's pension benefit.*

** Protecting all employees from sexual harassment: H.B. 2300, sponsored by Rep. Mike Schlossberg, D-Lehigh; and S.B. 475, sponsored by Sen. Jay Costa, D-Allegheny. These similar bills would end the exemption from state sexual harassment law for those who employ three or fewer people.*

Bills from phase one of the Women's Health Caucus agenda that have advanced include:

** Equitable protections for domestic violence victims: H.B. 1796, sponsored by Rep. Todd Stephens, R-Montgomery. This legislation would ban municipal ordinances that penalize crime victims for calling for help. This bill passed the House 197-0 in January but has been delayed by an unrelated issue in the Senate.*

** Stop intimate partner harassment (ban "revenge by invasion of privacy"). The Senate version, S.B. 1167, sponsored by Schwank, passed the Senate 49-0 in January and awaits action in the House Judiciary Committee. This legislation would ban publishing any photo or video identifying another person, who is naked or engaging in a sexual act, without that person's consent.*

The Pennsylvania Women's Health Caucus is a bipartisan, bicameral caucus of legislators partnering with interest groups and advocacy organizations. Info: http://is.gd/PaWomenPhaseOne.

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